FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-145
Friday
30 July 1993

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-145 *30 July 1993*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An • indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief Leaves for Damascus Meeting on Lebanon *[MENA]* 1
Reportage on Arrivals in Damascus for Arab League Meeting 1
Iraqi Envoy *[SANA]* 1
UAE, Bahraini Officials *[SANA]* 1
Qatari Official *[Damascus TV]* 1
Morocco's Filali *[Damascus TV]* 1
Lebanon's Buwayz *[Damascus Radio]* 2
Egypt's Musa, PLO's 'Abd-Rabbuh *[Damascus Radio]* 2
Yemen's Basindwah *[SANA]* 2
Jordanian Official *[SANA]* 2
Lebanon's Buwayz Rejects Negotiating Under Israeli Pressure *[Beirut Radio]* 2
Buwayz Criticizes U.S., UN Stand *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 3
Syria's al-Shar' Confers With Visitors Before Meeting *[SANA]* 3
Meets Lebanon's al-Hariri, 'Abd-al-Majid *[Damascus Radio]* 3

Islamic Affairs

ICO Statement Welcomes Geneva Talks on Bosnia *[SPA]* 4

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Members Reportedly To Join Talks Delegation *['AL HAMISHMAR 30 Jul]* 4
Abu-Sharif: Christopher To Face 'Serious' Arab Reaction *[Paris Radio]* 4
'Abd-al-Shafi: End Attack or Talks May Be Suspended *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 4
Franji Fears Spread of Conflict With Israel *[Cologne Radio]* 5
PFLP's Habash Comments on Raids, Confederation *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 6
Front Claims Katyusha Attacks *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 6
U.S.-Israeli Collusion Seen in Lebanon Events *[AL-TALI'AH 29 Jul]* 6
Arab League Reticence Over Lebanon Events Criticized *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 30 Jul]* . 7
Palestinians on Jurisdiction, Sovereignty Stands *['AL HAMISHMAR 30 Jun]* 7
PLO Implementing 'Stringent' Austerity Measures 7
'Most' East Europe Embassies Closed *[AL-NAHAR 29 Jul]* 7
Three Ministries Abolished *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 28 Jul]* 8

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

Musa Says Peace Process Not Endangered by Israeli Attacks *[MENA]* 9
Press Comments *[MENA]* 9
PLO'S 'Abbas Comments on Talks With Musa *[MENA]* 9
Sudanese Foreign Minister Notes Progress at Talks, Departs *[MENA]* 10
New Meeting Likely in October *[MENA]* 10
Al-Baz Returns From Visits to Italy, Spain *[MENA]* 10

Libya

Paper Explores Jallud's Status, Whereabouts *[London AL-WASAT 26 Jul-1 Aug]* 10

Sudan

Foreign Ministry Denounces Israeli 'Aggression' *[SUNA]* 14
Al-Bashir Receives Visiting Italian Delegation *[SUNA]* 15

Tunisia

Foreign Minister on Fate of Iraqi Deposits, Planes *[KUNA]* 15

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Joint Kuwaiti-Bahraini Press Release Issued in Manama *[KUNA]* 16

Kuwait

* 'Ali Jabir Statements on Israel Anger Assembly *[London AL-HAYAH 26 Jul]* 17
* Government 'Leaning Towards' Warrior APC Purchase *[London AL-HAYAH 28 Jul]* 17

Yemen

House of Representatives Denounces Israeli Raids on Lebanon *[Sanaa Radio]* 17
* Al-Ahmar on YSP, Arab Relations *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 30 Jun]* 18
New Social Affairs Minister Takes Constitutional Oath *[Sanaa Radio]* 19

IRAQ

Spokesman Denies U.S. Aircraft Fired at Radar Sites *[INA]* 20
Pentagon Said To Admit Allegations 'False' *[INA]* 20
U.S. Aircraft 'Violations' 20-26 Jul Protested *[INA]* 20
Iranian Attacks on North Protested *[INA]* 20
Baghdad Said Seeking 'Package Deal' on Oil Sales *[Amman TV]* 20
Damascus Said Taking 'Orders' From U.S. on Lebanon *[Baghdad VOP]* 20
EC To Grant $16 Million in Emergency Aid *[AFP]* 21

ISRAEL

Contacts Said Under Way for Cease-Fire in Lebanon 22
Officials Deny Reports *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22
Beilin Confirms Negotiations *[Tel Aviv TV]* 22
Guarantee Sought *[Jerusalem TV]* 22
Rabin: No Cease-Fire Before Goals Attained *[Jerusalem Radio]* 23
Receives Call From Christopher *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Rabinovich Says No U.S. Pressure for Cease-Fire *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Says Syrian, Lebanese Effort Needed *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 25
Peres Comments on Operation, Court Decision *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Baraq: Operation To Continue 'As Long as Necessary' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Ministers Criticize Baraq; Support Said Eroding *[HA'ARETZ 30 Jul]* 28
Tourism Minister Voices Concern *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 29 Jul]* 28
Officials Explain Operation's Goals to Foreign Media 29
Beilin Defends Attack on Lebanon *[London BBC TV]* 29
Ambassador on Conflict With Hizballah *[Brussels DE MORGEN 29 Jul]* 30
Air Force Commander Reviews IDF Operation *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 30 Jul]* 31
Katyushas Continue To Hit Galilee Panhandle 30 Jul 33
No Injuries Reported in First Attack *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 33
Damage Caused by Later Attack *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Peres, al-Husayni Interviewed on Peace Process *[Jerusalem TV]* 33
Two Wounded in Bethlehem Grenade Attack *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
Tzomet Submits No-Confidence Motion *[Jerusalem TV]* 38

JORDAN

Parties Agree on Need for 'Democratic, Modern' Election Law *[JORDAN TIMES 29-30 Jul]* 39
Interior Ministry Appoints New Governors *[JORDAN TIMES 29-30 Jul]* 40
Need for Better Ties With Oman, Gulf States Seen *[AL-RA'Y 29 Jul]* 40
Palestinian Said To Return 'Willingly' to West Bank *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 30 Jul]* 41

LEBANON

Minister Says Christopher Arranging Cease-Fire *[VOL]* 42
U.S. Envoy Meets al-Hirawi, Urges End to Violence *[Beirut Radio]* 42
Russian Envoy Condemns Extremist Activity *[RFL]* 42
Dallul Tours Army Position, Views Shelled Villages *[VOM]* 42
Newspaper: Hizballah To Blame for Israeli Operation *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 28 Jul]* 43
Fadlallah Says Europe, U.S. Behind Israeli Action *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 43
Says Political Defeat Can Be Prevented *[VOL]* 43
Nasrallah: Katyushas Stop When Israel Stops *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 44
Hizballah Radio Views U.S. Cease-Fire Proposal *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 44
Says Israeli Invasion Plausible *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 44
Jihad Group Issues 'Final Warning' to U.S. *[RFL]* 44
Resistance Leaders Call For Unified Stand on Talks *[VOM]* 44
PLO Envoy on Palestinian Casualties, Peace Talks *[MENA]* 45
More IDF Reinforcements Cross Border Into South 45
Tanks Enter Security Zone *[Jerusalem Radio]* 45
Hizballah Radio Notes New Deployments *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 45
Unidentified Submarines Reported Off North Coast *[RFL]* 45
IDF Denies Claim on Number of Villages Destroyed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 45
Media Report Statistics on Dead, Injured, Damages 45
RFL: 21 Killed 29 Jul *[RFL]* 45
UNIFIL Updates Casualty Toll *[Jerusalem Radio]* 45
State Radio Updates Situation *[Beirut Radio]* 46
Yakan on Role, Aims of Islamic Group *[London AL-HAWADITH 23 Jul]* 46

SYRIA

Iran's Velayati Arrives in Damascus 29 Jul 48
Received by al-Shar' *[Damascus Radio]* 48
Conveys Hashemi-Rafsanjani Message *[Damascus Radio]* 48
Notes Lebanese 'Right' To Self-Defense *[Tehran Radio]* 48
Confers With al-Asad, Nasrallah *[Tehran Radio]* 48
Velayati Extends Visit *[Tehran Radio]* 48
Al-Shar', Velayati Discusss Situation *[Damascus Radio]* 49
Al-Shar' on Israeli Attack, Impact on Peace Process *[Paris LIBERATION 28 Jul]* 49
Israeli Attacks Aim Confirm 'Expansionist Policy' *[SANA]* 50
Rabin Seen Imposing 'Fait Accompli' on Peace Talks *[Damascus Radio]* 50
Media Reaction to Israeli Operation Summarized *[Editorial Report]* 51
Commentary Discusses Runup to Arab Ministers' Meeting *[Damascus Radio]* 52

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Minister Declares Readiness for Negotiations With Russia *[Dushanbe Radio]* 54
Rabbani Attends Council Meeting, Discusses Tajikistan *[Kabul Radio]* 54
Kabul Denies Sending Invitation to 'Abd-al-Rahman *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 29 Jul]* ... 54

Bangladesh

Spokesman 'Strongly Condemns' Israeli Attack on Lebanon *[Dhaka Radio]* 54
Chakma Tribals Divided on Repatriation Issue *[DAINIK ITTEFAQ 23 Jul]* 55

India

Legislation Introduced To Bar Religion From Politics *[Delhi Radio]* 55
Security Forces Kill 'Hard-Core' Militant in Kashmir *[Delhi Radio]* 55
Prominent Kashmir Mojahedin Leader Killed *[Islamabad TV]* 56
ISRO May Produce Cyrogenic Engine by 1997 *[INDIAN EXPRESS 22 Jul]* 56
Party Leaders Backed Rao in Facing Opposition Challenge *[Delhi Radio]* 56
Five Cooperation Agreements Signed With Uzbekistan *[Delhi Radio]* 57

Iran

Khamene'i Continues Tour of Azerbaijan Province 57
Notes Country's Strengths *[IRNA]* 57
Views Clinton's 'Naive' Efforts *[Tehran Radio]* 58
Larijani Discusses U.S. Aims in Region *[RESALAT 6 Jul]* 58
Commentary Sees U.S. Efforts To Exert Economic Pressure *[Tehran Radio]* 59
Yazdi Criticizes U.S., UN Over Israeli Attacks *[Tehran Radio]* 60
Commentary Examines International Reaction to Lebanon Raids *[Tehran Radio]* 61
Israeli Strategy Likely To Fail *[Tehran International]* 61
Commentary Urges UN Mediation in Tajikistan Fighting *[Tehran International]* 62
Commentary Discusses Bosnian Peace Talks, Peace Plan *[Tehran Radio]* 63
Austrian Minister Discusses Bosnia With Velayati *[IRNA]* 63
Meets Habibi, Kalantari *[IRNA]* 63
Envoy Reports Iraqi Violations, Border Clashes to UN *[IRNA]* 64
Oil Minister Discusses Market, OPEC Situation *[Tehran TV]* 64
Khamene'i Appoints Representative to Ardabil Province *[Tehran TV]* 66
* Prices of Food Products in Tehran Detailed *[SALAM 6 Jul]* 66
* Need To Increase Capabilities in All Areas Stressed *[KEYHAN-E HAVAI 7 Jul]* 68
* Report Views Suicide Rate Among Young *[London KEYHAN 6 May]* 70
* Editorial Urges Government Action *[London KEYHAN 6 May]* 70

Nepal

Ruling Party, Opposition Resume Talks *[AFP]* 70

Pakistan

Editorial Urges 'Stronger' U.S. Stand on Kashmir *[THE PAKISTAN TIMES 29 Jul]* 71
Afghan Foreign Minister Arrives in Peshawar on 5-Day Visit *[Islamabad Radio]* 72
Prime Minister on PRC Missiles, U.S. Ties, Kashmir *[Islamabad International]* 72
Local Councils in Balochistan Suspended *[Islamabad TV]* 72

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief Leaves for Damascus Meeting on Lebanon

NC2907144893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jul (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo for Damascus this afternoon to participate in the Arab League Council emergency meeting scheduled to open there Friday at the request of the Lebanese Government. Before his departure, 'Abd-al- Majid said a large number of Arab foreign ministers and Arab League permanent envoys will participate in the two-day meeting to debate the Israeli aggression against south Lebanon.

On halting the peace negotiations because of the Israeli aggression, 'Abd-al-Majid said that we must wait and examine the topics proposed at the meeting and study the serious results of this aggression which undoubtedly threatens the peace process. He noted that the Arab League issued a statement on 25 July condemning this Israeli action. He said that the international community should face up to its responsibilities to put an end to these actions that obstruct the peace process. He pointed out that there is international denunciation of this action and that the United States called on Israel for self-restraint. He noted that Israel should respond to these appeals and assess the serious outcome of these actions.

Reportage on Arrivals in Damascus for Arab League Meeting

Iraqi Envoy

JN2907160793 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1540 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Text] Damascus, 29 Jul (SANA)—Nabil Najm, permanent representative of the Republic of Iraq to the Arab League, arrived in Damascus this evening, leading an Iraqi delegation to the Arab League's ministerial emergency meeting tomorrow evening.

He was received at Damascus International Airport by Munib al- Rifa'i, director of the Legal Administration at the Foreign Ministry, and Dr. 'Isa Darwish, Syrian ambassador in Cairo.

UAE, Bahraini Officials

JN2907162893 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1530 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Text] Damascus, 29 Jul (SANA)—Sayf Sa'id Sa'id, under secretary at the United Arab Emirates [UAE] Ministry of Foreign Affairs and head of the UAE delegation to the emergency Arab League ministerial meeting which will convene in Damascus tomorrow, Friday, evening, arrived in Damascus this evening.

Mustafa Kamal Muhammad, Bahraini ambassador in Cairo and head of the Bahraini delegation to the meeting, also arrived on board of the same plane.

The two officials were welcomed upon arrival at Damascus International Airport by Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur, several senior Foreign Ministry officials, the Syrian ambassador to the UAE, the UAE charge d'affaires in Damascus, the Bahraini charge d'affaires in Damascus, as well as staff of the UAE and Bahraini embassies in Damascus.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Sa'id said that this meeting is being convened in critical circumstances, during which Israeli attacks and raids on fraternal Lebanon are being stepped up. We, he added, as representatives of an Arab state condemn this aggression on Lebanon, a fraternal Arab state, and demand that it be halted.

Sa'id went on to say: This meeting has a special significance, given the fact that it is being convened under certain Arab circumstances. It is also being convened while Israel is violating international resolutions and conventions. These circumstances require the Arab nation to examine its current state of affairs, which is currently in need of such meetings.

Concluding his statement, Sa'id said: Undoubtedly, the resolutions that will be issued by this meeting will have a special significance, especially with regard to halting the Israeli aggression on Lebanon.

For his part, Bahraini ambassador in Cairo Mustafa Kamil Muhammad made a statement to a SANA correspondent, affirming that this meeting is extremely important, given that it embodies Arab solidarity. He added that there is a unified Arab stance that will be reflected in the resolutions to be adopted by the Damascus meeting.

Qatari Official

JN2907183693 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Excerpt] Ahmad Bin-'Abdallah al-Mahmud, under secretary of the Qatari Foreign Ministry and head of the Qatari delegation to the emergency Arab League ministerial meeting, arrived in Damascus this evening. He was welcomed at Damascus International Airport by Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur, senior Foreign Ministry officials, and the Qatari ambassador in Damascus. [passage omitted]

Morocco's Filali

JN2907183993 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Text] Moroccan Foreign Minister Dr. Abdellatif Filali arrived in Damascus this evening. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; Yusuf Shakkur, assistant

foreign minister; 'Adnan 'Imran, assistant secretary general of the Arab League; senior officials at the Foreign Ministry, and the Moroccan ambassador in Damascus.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Dr. Filali expressed his pleasure at being in Damascus. He said: This meeting is important to meet the Lebanese request to put an end to the Israeli aggression against its territory. He added: Circumstances are appropriate for the Arab brothers to hold consultations on this situation, on what is taking place in the Arab arena, and on the peace talks.

Dr. Filali described the Damascus meeting as important, hoping that it will produce positive results.

Lebanon's Buwayz

JN2907191693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Text] Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz arrived in Damascus this evening to participate in the emergency session of the Arab League Council to begin in Damascus tomorrow.

Egypt's Musa, PLO's 'Abd-Rabbuh

JN3007133693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] At Lebanon's request, the Arab League Ministerial Council will hold an emergency meeting in Damascus at 1800 today to discuss developments in the Lebanese arena and the region as a result of continuing Israeli aggression on Lebanon. Arab delegations are arriving in Damascus to attend the meeting.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa arrived in Damascus this morning to attend the Arab League Ministerial Council's emergency meeting this evening. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee and head of the Palestinian delegation, arrived on the same plane. They were received at Damascus International Airport by Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur, several Foreign Ministry officials, the Syrian ambassador in Cairo, the Egyptian ambassador in Damascus, and the head of the PLO office in Damascus.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Musa said: The convening of the emergency meeting in Damascus at this time is necessary. It is important for the Arabs to consider the Lebanese situation, which has deteriorated as a result of continued Israeli aggression. He added: We must talk about Arab solidarity, the peace process and its usefulness, ways to continue it, and the Arab strategy in this regard. We are working to regain Arab land through negotiations. This is the precise position, which should continue until we regain Arab land and rights.

Palestinian delegation leader Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh told the SANA correspondent that the meeting is very significant in the current circumstances because it will discuss the unification of the Arab position on this brutal and barbaric aggression against our fraternal people in Lebanon and its steafast south. He added: We believe the Arab group should take measures to support fraternal Lebanon's position.

Yemen's Basindwah

JN3007154993 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] Damascus, 30 Jul (SANA)—Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah and an accompanying delegation arrived in Damascus this afternoon to attend an emergency Arab League meeting in Damascus today.

Jordanian Official

JN3007155393 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1507 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] Damascus, 30 Jul (SANA)—Jordanian Minister of State Ahmad al-'Aqayilah arrived in Damascus this afternoon leading a delegation to take part in the emergency min.sterial meeting of the Arab League this evening.

Lebanon's Buwayz Rejects Negotiating Under Israeli Pressure

NC3007123293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1110 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Dispatch from Damascus by unidentified radio correspondent]

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz affirmed that Lebanon will not negotiate under the pressure of Israeli shelling and aggressive actions. He maintained that Lebanon is paying the price for all its Arab brothers. Minister Buwayz spoke following his meeting with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid in Damascus today. [passage omitted]

Minister Buwayz said after the meeting:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] [Words indistinct] the discussion with Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid?

[Buwayz] We discussed with the Arab League secretary general the meeting that will be held this afternoon and the issues that Lebanon will raise at the meeting and it hopes for what the final statement or resolution will include. We stressed the need to show Arab solidarity on the Lebanese issue, as this country is paying the price for all Arabs. We think that when Lebanese steadfastness collapses, Arab steadfastness will collapse also. When Israel succeeds in imposing new terms on Lebanon, this will reflect on all the Arab-Israeli negotiations and demand additional Arab retreats and concessions. We asked for support for Lebanon's request for a UN Security Council meeting. We also asked for immediate

intervention to initiate an Israeli cease-fire and withdrawal beyond the border in compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 425. We also asked for support in returning the displaced people to their villages and homes in Lebanon.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] participation of the Arab parties in the 11th round and achieve security solutions in the south. What is your reaction?

[Buwayz] First, we do not accept the logic of negotiating under the pressure of the gun. We think—as I have already said—that if we allow Israel to achieve a victory, this victory will reflect on the entire negotiating process and will become a standard for all Arab states, even for the states that are not taking part in the bilateral negotiations. It will also reflect on the states that participate in the multilateral negotiations.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Buwayz] We will hold talks with our Arab brothers on this issue. But we do not think that there is use in continuing the negotiations unless the gun (?become silent). [end recording]

Minister Buwayz noted that Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri will attend the Arab League council meeting this evening briefly to introduce the Lebanese position. [passage omitted]

Buwayz Criticizes U.S., UN Stand

JN3007140293 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Report by Sana' al-Imam from Damascus]

[Text] Bilateral coordination meetings were held this morning in connection with the Arab League Council session to convene today at 1700, Paris local time.

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, and with Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid.

In a statement to Radio Monte Carlo, Faris Buwayz stressed that, so far, there are no signs that Israel intends to stop the aggression against Lebanon. He said the nature of the military presence and mobilization shows the Israeli aggression will continue.

The Lebanese foreign minister said Israel is seeking to achieve many objectives via this aggression. It seeks to divert the purpose of Christopher's visit to a discussion of security issues instead of political issues. It seeks to deprive Lebanon of its right to confront the aggression, to make Lebanon hold talks, and to expand the security strip in order to expand the occupied area.

Buwayz added that, so far, the United States has not given Lebanon the impression that it is carrying out its duties, such as stopping the Israeli aggression and returning the displaced people to their homes. Buwayz said: The UN Security Council, which received a complaint from Lebanon, has not yet played its role.

Asked about the effect of the Israeli aggression against Lebanon on the peace process, the Lebanese foreign minister said: Israel cannot achieve genuine peace while it is exacerbating the problem and increasing the grudges against it. Buwayz said the Security Council and international legitimacy are now called on, more than before, to end the Israeli aggression. He said: We have not seen the Security Council on our side or on the side of our cause under any circumstances.

Regarding the Lebanese resistance and Hizballah, Faris Buwayz said: The government cannot guard the Israeli border or occupation. It cannot prevent the people from confronting the Israeli occupation, particularly since the resistance, which includes more than just Hizballah, emerged because the Lebanese Government failed to end the Israeli occupation.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said: The talks will deal with Arab solidarity and the continuation of the peace process. The peace we are seeking is based on the land-for-peace principle. Asked about the Egyptian stand vis-a-vis the Israeli aggression against Lebanon, the head of Egyptian diplomacy said: Our stand is based on respect for Lebanon's sovereignty. There must be a united Arab approach to reinforce the peace process that was undermined by the Israeli escalation.

Palestinian sources quoted U.S. circles as saying that Israel will stop the operations before the Arab foreign ministers' meeting today. The Palestinian sources added: If this happens, it should not affect the seriousness of the resolutions to be issued by the Arab foreign ministers.

Syria's al-Shar' Confers With Visitors Before Meeting

JN3007155593 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1505 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] Damascus, 30 Jul (SANA)—Foreign Minister Faruq al- Shar' today met with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali, and Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid.

During these meetings, views were exchanged and consultations were held on the topic to be discussed during the emergency session of the Arab League Council to convene in Damascus this evening.

Meets Lebanon's al-Hariri, 'Abd-al-Majid

JN3007162293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid this evening. Talks centered on the emergency meeting the Arab

League Ministerial Council will hold this evening, as well as the Israeli aggression against Lebanon.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Statement Welcomes Geneva Talks on Bosnia

LD2807222293 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2110 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Text] Jeddah, 28 Jul (SPA)—The Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] has expressed the hope that the Geneva negotiations on Bosnia-Herzegovina, which have resumed recently, will be a decisive turning point in the achievement of peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

After following with interest the resumption of the negotiations, ICO Secretary General Hamid Algabid saluted in a statement issued today the participation in the negotiations of President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and considered this an expression of a sincere desire on the Bosnian side for a negotiated settlement of the crisis from which the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the victims of an external aggression, are suffering.

Dr. Algabid stressed that a true and lasting solution can be achieved only through a settlement that does not consecrate the acquisition of land by force and ethnic cleansing, and does not reward aggression. He urged the international community and the chairmen of the conference, in particular, to use their influence with the Serbian and Croatian sides to force them to enter these talks with sincere intentions and devotion so that the new gathering does not become a new pretext for attacks on the Muslims.

He saw the need for an urgent declaration of a cease-fire, guaranteeing its continuation, the lifting of the siege on Bosnian cities, and facilitating the resumption of relief work and the return of the refugees. All the sides to the conflict should declare officially their commitment to the cease-fire as a first stage to a peaceful political settlement. In the event of the failure of the talks, Dr. Algabid called on the UN Security Council to take all the necessary measures for the implementation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions on Bosnia.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Members Reportedly To Join Talks Delegation

TA3007110193 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 30 Jul 93 pp 1, 5

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] The PLO intends to change the composition of the Palestinian delegation to include PLO personnel, such as Nabil Sha'th and Akram Haniyah. This issue was discussed in frantic consultations among PLO officials in Cairo yesterday; they also consulted Faysal al-Husayni, who came to Cairo for that purpose. This is reported in the latest issue of East Jerusalem weekly AL- MANAR.

The report further states that the PLO will cut the number of delegates down to eight. Our correspondent adds that Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi will no longer head the delegation, and he may leave it altogether. The delegation will not be headed by Faysal al-Husayni either, but rather by one of the PLO officials to be added to it. AL-MANAR further reports that PLO envoy in Cairo, Sa'id Kamal, has resigned his position in protest over the mismanagement of PLO affairs.

Abu-Sharif: Christopher To Face 'Serious' Arab Reaction

LD2907175693 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1700 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Excerpts] In Tunis, PLO spokesman Bassam Abu-Sharif warns Israel against the diplomatic consequences of its attack in south Lebanon. Abu-Sharif was interviewed by Luc Lemonnier:

[Begin recording] [Abu-Sharif] The U.S. Administration knows very well that the Arab world is furious. So far, 300,000 Lebanese and Palestinians have been displaced from south Lebanon. This is a serious problem. The attacks are continuing. I think Mr. Christopher will face a very serious reaction from the Arab countries.

[Lemonnier] But it is in no one's interests to break the peace negotiations. Would you go as far as to withdraw from the peace process?

[Abu-Sharif] One cannot make a judgment right now, but I can say that the new situation is very dangerous and is threatening the peace process. [end recording]

'Abd-al-Shafi: End Attack or Talks May Be Suspended

TA3007084993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Report on statements by 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the peace delegation, by correspondent 'Ofer Vardi during a meeting with Democratic Front for Peace and Equality in Tel Aviv; date not given—recorded; 'Abd-al-Shafi's remarks in English with superimposed Hebrew translation]

[Text] The Palestinians are threatening to suspend the peace talks unless the fighting in Lebanon stops. 'Abd-al-Shafi said that the Israeli attack on innocent people is a crime.

[Begin recording] [Vardi] The Palestinians might suspend the peace talks if the fighting continues. Israel has already caused enough damage, and there will be no alternative to suspending the talks. The following was said by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian peace delegation:

['Abd-al-Shafi] My estimation is that we will not go; we will suspend the peace talks until we see what takes place.

[Vardi] 'Abd-al-Shafi compared Israel to Juha, a hero of Arabic literature:

['Abd-al-Shafi] There is a fellow called Juha. He is a legendary troublemaker....

[Vardi] 'Abd-al-Shafi said Israel wants peace and quiet in the Galilee, but the methods it has employed has caused the war in Lebanon. Juha also means well, but he always causes trouble:

['Abd-al-Shafi] We look at the television screens, and we see children who have been hit by shrapnel....

[Vardi] 'Abd-al-Shafi added: We see men and women killed and Lebanon being destroyed. This is simply a criminal attack on innocent people. Israel is the only party responsible for what is happening in Lebanon. Hizballah has nothing to do with what is happening there. Any such claim is an insult to one's intelligence.

We should note that Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi represents the extremist positions within the Palestinian peace delegation. [end recording]

Franji Fears Spread of Conflict With Israel

AU3007092093 Cologne Deutschlandfunk Network in German 0419 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Telephone interview with 'Abdallah Franji, head of the PLO Information Office in Bonn, speaking from Tunis, by Wolfgang Labuhn—live]

[Text] [Labuhn] According to the news agencies, this morning Hizballah militias once again fired Katyusha missiles from southern Lebanon to northern Israel, so that one can probably assume that Israel will respond to this with military means today, too. The foreign ministers of the Arab League plan to discuss the situation in Damascus today. From the Syrian Government it has been heard that it favors continuing the Mideast talks in Washington despite this latest escalation in the Israeli-Lebanese border area. We are now connected with 'Abdallah Franji in Tunis, who, as head of the Palestine Information Office in Bonn, is practically the PLO spokesman in Germany. Good morning, Mr. Franji.

[Franji] Good morning.

[Labuhn] Do the Palestinians think the Mideast conference in Washington should be continued?

[Franji] I think that the Palestinians will probably continue these talks to achieve peace there, even though the Israelis have abolished the precondition for that, because Israel's operations in these areas in Lebanon over the past four or five days create a poisonous atmosphere among the people, not only in Lebanon, not only among the Palestinians, but everywhere in the entire Islamic world and in the Arab countries. Thus, everyone who talks to Israel now will somehow not be accepted by his own people or by everyone around him. Therefore, I am afraid that peace between Israel and the Arab countries surrounding it is becoming more remote.

[Labuhn] Mr. Franji, in the Israelis' view, pro-Iranian Shi'ite Hizballah militias in southern Lebanon are to blame for this latest escalation because they started to shell northern Israel with missiles. The Hizballah militias are supported by Iran and, probably not quite by coincidence, Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati has also come to Damascus, where the Arab League conference will take place today. Is this not a battlefield on the side, so to speak, for the entire Mideast peace talks?

[Franji] The Israelis always their own [word indistinct] in this region, I mean the Israelis have occupied southern Lebanon. Since 1982 they have occupied one-third of Lebanon. If the Lebanese insist on an Israeli withdrawal and if the Israelis do not do this as a result of talks, they will try to resist. Hizballah is doing this not on behalf of all Lebanese but because this area is inhabited by the Shi'ites and, therefore, they will try to make the Israelis withdraw and also because UN Security Council Resolution 425 has been calling on the Israelis to withdraw for the past 10 years. This means that the Hizballah actions are not aimed against Israeli territories but against the presence of the Israeli Army in southern Lebanon.

[Labuhn] But the missiles hit Israeli villages in northern Israel.

[Franji] I think that the escalation has spread very much. It is clear that one cannot keep military actions in check anymore. My fears and the fears of many Palestinians and in the Arab countries are that the escalation will not remain limited to the Arab-Israeli conflict but might also spread to Iran. In this case, Israel will certainly not have a good future.

[Labuhn] Mr. Franji, does this mean that the Mideast peace talks in Washington can only have a chance of success when Lebanon has regained its full sovereignty right up to the border with Israel?

[Franji] I think that this is the precondition. Making peace means that the people, who live there, feel this peace. The people in Lebanon need this peace so that they can continue Lebanon's reconstruction. The Lebanese have the support of all states of the Arab League and also of the EC and the United States. However, the intensive escalation is a sign that the UN Security Council and the UN institutions should be involved more now. Now one must also make sure that these institutions do not remain exclusively in the hands of the United States. I believe it may be advisable for new states to become members, such as India and Germany, or Germany and Brazil, or Japan and Germany, so that the United States no longer has sole control over this institution. This is [words indistinct] of the UN Security Council and the business of the United Nations.

[Labuhn] This is a completely different topic. Let us come back to the situation in Israel, in the territories occupied by Israel. Mr. Franji, as Foreign Minister Peres explained yesterday, there the Israeli Government wants to examine a PLO proposal on self-administration for the Gaza Strip and the city of Jericho. Peres said this in his first television discussion with a high-ranking Palestinian politician, namely Faysal al-Husayni. This discussion was itself a small sensation, compared with Israel's prior behavior. Mr. Franji, how do you assess the Israeli concessions concerning the PLO proposal on self-administration?

[Franji] So far, there has not been any official response to this PLO proposal. If Peres really said this during yesterday's television discussion, it is a—let us say—positive development. However, the Palestinians also know that Peres cannot have a positive influence on Rabin's actions so that it is to be feared that such plans will fail. In any case, one must wait and see how far the escalation goes, to what extent the Israeli military operations are continued, and whether or not this might lead to a confrontation with the Syrians and also with Iranians. Nevertheless, we will continue the talks with the Israelis under the aegis of the United States and the other countries, hoping that we will be able to put an end to the current situation. It is the Palestinians' principle to achieve a just and lasting peace, but not only between Israelis and Palestinians but between the entire Arab world and Israel.

[Labuhn] Mr. Franji, would the PLO be willing to agree to a step-by-step introduction of self-administration in the occupied territories, that is, in the Gaza Strip and on the West Bank?

[Franji] We have suggested this to the Israelis over the past 20 months but, once again, the Israeli response has not been encouraging so far. I hope that the Israelis will finally come to understand that they cannot force peace in this region with the sword.

PFLP's Habash Comments on Raids, Confederation

JN2907183093 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Text] George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], said in Amman today that the Israeli aggression [against Lebanon] seeks to apply pressure on Syria, the PLO, and Lebanon to force them to accept the U.S. view on settling the crisis in the Middle East.

Habash stressed that establishing a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation is a premature plan. He said this plan cannot be implemented before the establishment of a Palestinian state, before it celebrates its establishment in Jerusalem—the capital of the state—and before a popular referendum is held.

Front Claims Katyusha Attacks

JN3007092193 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0900 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has claimed responsibility for firing katyusha rockets on the Galilee area in northern Israel this morning.

In a statement it issued, the PFLP said that the katyushas are in reply to Israel's shelling of the Palestinian camps in south Lebanon, particularly the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp.

U.S.-Israeli Collusion Seen in Lebanon Events

TA2907165393 Jerusalem AL-TALI'AH in Arabic 29 Jul 93 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Read the Results of What Is Happening in Lebanon"]

[Text] Regardless of the propaganda and persuasion Rabin's government uses to justify its large-scale offensive against Lebanon and to place responsibility on the other party, it will find no one who believes it and understands its reasons for forcing more than 360,000 Lebanese residents to leave their homes and villages except for their U.S. partner, which is trying with utmost impudence to play the role of a neutral mediator.

The killing and destruction—that words cannot describe—taking place now in Lebanon cannot be considered merely a traditional military reaction to Hizballah operations; rather it indicates conspiratorial intentions to aggravate the political atmosphere and to outline a political move based on Israeli interests.

The dimension, timing, and scope of the current Israeli aggression indicate a reality which has become clear to all; namely, military force has been and will remain the Israeli alternative to the principle of land for peace and commitment to the resolutions of international legitimacy at the negotiating table.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region comes to reinforce this reality. The visit's results have been determined in advance with the announcement by the secretary himself that Rabin's government is not responsbile for what is happening as well as with his refusal to ask Israel to cease its aggression and its total disregard of Security Council Resolution 425 calling on Israel to withdraw from south Lebanon.

Those who are getting ready now to meet Christopher in the occupied territories or in Arab capitals should realize this fact and should read the visit's results based on what Israel is doing in Lebanon. The U.S. secretary is seeking to transform the "Israeli alternative" into a political reality that the other parties must accept without conditions or reservations.

Arab League Reticence Over Lebanon Events Criticized

PM3007162193 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 30 Jul 93 p 1

['Abd-al-Bari 'Atwan article: "Embarrassing Arab Impotence"]

[Excerpts] After six days of continuous Israeli bombardment, after the departure of 300,000 Lebanese people from their destroyed villages, and after the martyrdom of 100 people and wounding of at least 2,000, the Arab states' foreign ministers begin their emergency meetings in Damascus to discuss the Israeli aggression on "fraternal" Lebanon!

As for why it took the Arab governments all this time to decide to meet, God knows, and so does Washington and perhaps Tel Aviv. But what we can guess is that these democratically elected governments decided to be patient and to display self-restraint so that Israel could complete its mission in south Lebanon, kill as many innocent people as possible, and wipe out the infidel villages of the south which do not believe in the Israeli peace, and then meet to discuss the matter and issue the scientific resolutions of denouncement and condemnation on the basis of tangible events.

This is the bitter truth which everyone knows. The Arab region as a whole has joined the U.S.-Israeli house of obedience, and appeasing the White House has become the utmost wish; that constitutes the most important appeasement.

In the past we had the courage to blame Washington because it does not press Israel to stop its continuous aggression on the Arabs in Palestine and Lebanon. We had more courage after the Gulf war on the grounds that some of us were its partner in its war to liberate Kuwait. Then we became more and more courageous and began to blame the Arabs because they do not press the United States to put pressure on Israel to implement part of the international legitimacy in Lebanon and the occupied territory. And here we are witnessing Arabs pressing Arabs—Palestinians and Lebanese—to accept the Israeli havoc and abandon their values, dignity, territory, and Jerusalem to Israel so as to appease Washington.

The embarrassing Arab silence about these raids constitutes the biggest pressure on the Lebanese, Palestinians, and Syrians. And delaying the Arab League Council meeting for six days represents contempt for the martyrs' lives and for the suffering of the homeless and starving around Beirut. [passage omitted]

We fear a joint Arab-Israeli conspiracy to disarm Arab, Islamic, and other fighters in preparation for imposing a humiliating settlement on the Arabs so as to guarantee that there will be no opposition to it, otherwise why this Arab silence, which has aroused Clinton's admiration?

It is sad to see Israeli deputies attack Rabin, accusing him of brutality, and hear nothing similar from Arab leaders or deputies. Even criticizing Rabin has become a red line for the Arabs!

In brief, the embarrassing Arab position on what is happening in Lebanon justifies all the Israeli claims that this massacre is in self-defense and in retaliation for Hizballah's operations against the Israeli forces in southern Lebanon. This position's defects cannot be concealed by rhetorical resolutions adopted by a conference held reluctantly and merely—as usual—out of a feeling of duty to avoid further blame.

Palestinians on Jurisdiction, Sovereignty Stands

TA3007105593 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 30 Jul 93 p 3

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] The Palestinians are prepared to defer the discussion of sovereignty in the territories to the permanent arrangement talks, and they distinguish between the jurisdiction and sovereignty. Our correspondent has learned this from a source in the Palestinian delegation to the Washington talks. The source added that the Palestinians had apprised the Israeli delegation of this stand during the previous round of Washington talks, and they intend to put it down in writing in a document to be submitted to Warren Christopher next week.

According to the source, the Palestinians would like to settle the jurisdiction issue during the interim stage, but this does not mean that the jurisdiction will predispose the issue of permanent borders which, in their opinion, should be settled separately thereby allowing for the definition of their rights to lands expropriated from them by the state.

An Israeli delegation source has confirmed that the Palestinians had indeed raised this proposal unofficially, and that Israel had rejected it on the grounds that it did not see any real difference between the proposal and their sovereignty demand.

Meanwhile, Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian delegation, has left for consultations with PLO officials in Cairo in anticipation of their meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 30 July cites Palestinian sources as saying that al-Husayni and 'Arafat "will discuss the possibility that the Palestinian organizations fighting alongside Hizballah in Lebanon will stop their fire."]

PLO Implementing 'Stringent' Austerity Measures

'Most' East Europe Embassies Closed

TA2907160593 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 29 Jul 93 pp 1, 7

[By Ahmad 'Abd-al-Qadir]

[Excerpt] London, QUDS PRESS—Informed Palestinian sources have said that the PLO, which is facing difficult financial challenges, has begun implementing a stringent austerity plan, reducing PLO representations and embassies abroad and slashing the number of employees in the remaining ones. In addition, it is closing some institutions and organizations affiliated with the PLO.

Those sources stressed to QUDS PRESS that the Palestinian leadership recently decided to close most of its embassies in Eastern Europe as well as embassies in some African countries with which the PLO maintains full diplomatic relations.

The sources said that another decision calling for a reduction in the number of employees representing the PLO in West European countries was adopted. This austerity plan comes as a result of financial constraints which have beset the PLO because since the suspension of financial aid to it some three years ago as a result of its stance on the Gulf crisis. The financial situation was the focus of discussion at a series of high-level meetings held by the PLO leadership and Fatah, the PLO's largest faction.

The well-informed sources expect between 30 and 40 percent of the employees working for the PLO in some countries, such as Jordan and Tunisia, to be dismissed. In addition, no new appointments will be made except with the permission of higher bodies and in cases of urgent necessity. [passage omitted]

Three Ministries Abolished

PM2907112293 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Jul 93 p 1

[Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi report: "PLO Abolishes Three Ministries for Financial Reasons"]

[Text] Tunis—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has decided to close three PLO departments because of the PLO's policy of financial austerity. The Departments of Information, Culture, and Social Affairs are to close. He did not abolish the positions of their heads: Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, 'Abdallah al-Hurani, and Sulayman al-Najjab.

Informed Palestinian sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the PLO has begun to sell its property abroad, where its embassies are based, because of the financial crisis it is experiencing.

PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi confirmed the existence of this crisis, which has already led to the closure of some offices. [PLO Executive Committee member] Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin) has denied that the leadership headquarters will be moved from Tunis to Cairo as part of the austerity policy.

Regarding the abolished departments, the sources confirmed that the three heads of these departments will retain their previous responsibilities in addition to retaining their membership in the Executive Committee, but they will not have their own departments. With the abolition of the three departments, the PLO now only has four official departments: The Political Department headed by Faruq Qaddumi, the Pan-Arab and International Relations Department headed by Mahmud 'Abbas, the Economic Department headed by Ahmad Quray', and the Occupied Homeland's Affair Department headed by 'Abbas Zaki. A Palestinian source has denied that the closure of the Information Department will affect the PLO's distribution of information. The Palestinian News Agency (WAFA) will conduct such actions; in addition daily reports will be issued by the unified Palestinian information office, supervised by Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman.

Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: "We do not deny that we are experiencing a stifling financial crisis. The PLO has embassies and offices in some European states on which we pay taxes, when they are not officially recognized as they are in the Scandinavian states. This is why we have decided to have one representative in northern Europe.

"We have offices in other states, but they have no influence at present. One person can stay there and supervise the other embassies or offices."

Egypt

Musa Says Peace Process Not Endangered by Israeli Attacks

NC2907142393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1337 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that he informed the Israeli ambassador in Cairo today of Egypt's stand on the need to stop the Israeli aggression against Lebanon immediately. In a statement to reporters today, Musa said that he and Israeli Ambassador David Sultan discussed the effects of this aggression on the peace process. Musa expressed his concern about the current situation, noting that Egypt supports continued negotiations and the peace process and exerting all possible effort to save the peace process and give peace a chance.

Responding to a question on whether the peace process is in danger because of the Israeli aggression just before U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region, Musa said that the peace process is not in danger. He added: "The general climate in the region is changing as a result of the Israeli action." He stressed that his upcoming talks with Christopher will discuss the various tracks of the peace process.

Press Comments

NC3007092993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 30 Jul (MENA)—Cairo newspapers stressed in their comments today that the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Damascus needs to be a working one and not a meeting for speeches, slogans, and resolutions that are issued only out of a sense of duty.

The newspaper AL-AKHBAR called for a strong Arab position that would show Israel that the Arab world does not stand by with its arms folded to watch the new massacre that is taking place in one of its countries where the blood of Lebanese is being shed without account.

The newspaper said the new Israeli belligerence revealed Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's true stance toward the peace process and the malevolent objective of his aggression: It is not logical to resume negotiations over the bodies of the dead and the blood of the wounded.

AL-AKHBAR believes the silence over the Israeli crime against Lebanon is a heavy load that burdens all Arabs.

On its part, AL-JUMHURIYAH expects the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Damascus later today to demonstrate the strong Arab coordination that appeared during previous rounds of the peace talks so that a decisive Arab stand is established that can dot the i's and cross the t's.

In its editorial the newspaper expressed surprise over the mere U.S. condemnation of the killing of civilians in Lebanon, without condemnation of the Israeli aggressive actions. It said the Arab man on the street hoped the American stance would be as strong as that of the European Community, which condemned the aggression against and violation of Lebanon's sovereignty.

AL-AHRAM affirmed that the Israeli offensive against the Lebanese people has not only revealed the continued policy of aggression, superiority, and desire for hegemony, but has also revealed the new aggressive and expansionist intentions, the most important of which is the desire to empty southern Lebanon of its residents and turn the military presence in the area that is called the security strip into a permanent Israeli presence.

The newspaper warned in its editorial today that Israel still has designs over Lebanon's territory and waters. It labors under the delusion that it can occupy them while the Lebanese, Arabs, and the international community sit back and watch. In this regard, the newspaper wonders: What is the meaning of this racket coming from the heart of Israel attempting to delude everyone that the Israeli raids fall within the framework of self-defense and reaction to the attacks by the national resistance?

AL-AHRAM said that no one has the right to ask the Lebanese resistance to stop the operations against Israel so long as there is one Israeli soldier on Lebanese territory.

The newspaper adds that if the Israelis expected such a bestial aggressive action to cause confrontation and fighting between the Lebanese parties once again, then they probably lost this wager after Lebanese reaction proved the unity of the official and popular Lebanese stances to bolster the spirit of steadfastness and resistance.

AL-AHRAM affirmed in conclusion that the Israelis will pay a high price. The paper adds, however, that there is still a chance this price will not have to be paid if the spirit of peace overcomes the policy of aggression.

PLO'S 'Abbas Comments on Talks With Musa

NC2907145993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1347 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jul (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, has stated that his talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today, which lasted about three hours, focused on the Israeli aggression against Lebanon and its effect on the peace process. He noted that there is a feeling that continued aggression will definitely obstruct the peace process. He said that the second issue under discussion concerns the Palestinian position just prior to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region, which will begin with a visit to Egypt Saturday [31 July]. He stressed that Egyptian-Palestinian contacts

and coordination will continue before and after U.S. officials' visits to the region.

Musa said that the Egyptian-Palestinian talks today dealt with the peace process and the Palestinian-Israeli track in preparation for the upcoming talks.

Sudanese Foreign Minister Notes Progress at Talks, Departs

NC2907174593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1633 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jul (MENA)—Sudanese Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Abu-Salih left Cairo for Damascus today to attend the Arab foreign ministers emergency meeting, due to begin there on 30 July.

In a predeparture statement, Dr. Abu-Salih announced that his talks in Cairo were conducted in an amicable and fraternal atmosphere, noting that he and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa made much progress in connection with the future of Egyptian-Sudanese relations.

Abu-Salih added that these talks will be resumed in the near future in the same amicable manner and that a date for another meeting between him and Musa will be set soon.

Ibrahim al-Bishari, Libya's permanent representative at the Arab League, and Dr. 'Isa Darwish, Syrian ambassador to Egypt, also left Cairo today to attend the Arab foreign ministers meeting.

New Meeting Likely in October

NC3007102593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0709 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 30 Jul (MENA)—Sudanese diplomatic sources in Cairo expect a second round of talks between Egyptian and Sudanese foreign ministers to be held in October in Khartoum.

In statements made to MENA, these sources said that during the first round of talks between Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Sudanese Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Abu-Salih, which concluded in Cairo last Tuesday [27 July], the firm principles governing relations between the two countries were set on the bases of respecting options and viewpoints, maintaining good relations, handling future problems, and taking the necessary confidence-building measures between the two sides.

The Sudanese sources added that during the discussions, which they described as positive, they reached an agreement in principle that each side should present proposals on how to deal with past problems and disputes. These will be discussed during the meeting between the foreign ministers of the two countries.

The sources affirmed that there is no dispute over the general principles governing relations between Egypt and Sudan.

Al-Baz Returns From Visits to Italy, Spain

NC3007104293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2139 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jul (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, returned to Cairo from Rome tonight after a five-day tour of Italy and Spain.

During his tour, Dr. al-Baz held meetings with newspaper editors and media officials in Rome, Milan, and Madrid. He presented them with the facts about the security situation in Egypt and corrected the reports carried by foreign media about this issue. He also outlined the facilities and services Egypt offers to tourists.

Libya

Paper Explores Jallud's Status, Whereabouts

JN2907162393 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 26 Jul-1 Aug 93 pp 18-21

[By Idris al-Masri]

[Text] Where is Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud? What is he doing? Where does he stand on the recent opening up to Israel?

These and other questions are being asked persistently by observers of the Libyan scene. They are all the more relevant given that Libya's second man has been stating views incompatible with those of al-Qadhdhafi. Examples: Jallud came out for Algeria's Islamists when al-Qadhdhafi criticized them; he spoke in support of Palestinian resistance when al-Qadhdhafi took a critical stand; Jallud took Iraq's side in the Gulf war, while al-Qadhdhafi took a more moderate stand; a few months ago, al-Qadhdhafi solicited the support of economic and oil experts for his decision to distribute oil revenues among the Libyan people, and at the same forum the following day Jallud ridiculed the idea; and Jallud denigrated the country's economic policies, and state-run media reported the diatribe.

Jallud has been conspicuously silent since last month's visit by Libyan "pilgrims" to occupied Jerusalem. His status has since been the subject of speculation, some people saying it is business as usual and that he is carrying out the usual tasks assigned to him under the 1 September revolution. He is said by others to have been placed under temporary house arrest, after he protested vigorously to al-Qadhdhafi and other Libyan officials. According to other sources, Jallud only submitted a written memorandum to al-Qadhdhafi criticizing the "pilgrims'" Jerusalem visit, and that the memorandum was rejected.

In the meantime, Western diplomatic sources note that, for all his seemingly revolutionary outlook, Jallud is on close terms with American officials—never mind his choice of technocrats and liberals for the portfolios in the Libyan governments he helped shape. The same sources indicate that al-Qadhdhafi is fully aware of Jallud's connections, and that he cited them in letters he wrote to American officials. This has not kept Jallud's ideas from spreading to most government agencies—ministries, the diplomatic corps, security forces, and the revolutionary committees. This is said to have been a constant worry to al-Qadhdhafi and one of the reasons he does not travel abroad when he should. The sources cited his failure to participate in the African summit that was held in Cairo on 27 June, although he was scheduled to meet with African leaders there.

For a more or less realistic picture, we need to look at the background of the relationship between al-Qadhdhafi and Jallud.

On 27 March, 1970, the then Russian ambassador in Tripoli asked to meet with Fathi al-Dhib, a special envoy of the late President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir. At a meeting set up at the Egyptian Embassy, the Russian ambassador asked, quite bluntly, where Jallud ranked in the pecking order of Libya's Revolution Command Council, and whether he was indeed the second man. Many questions have been asked since about the standing, role, and character of Jallud.

His real name is 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud, and he was known by this name until the overthrow of the monarchy. Jallud belongs to the al-Maqarihah, one of the largest Libyan tribes wielding considerable social influence in the south of the country. His family, however, never had the same weight as other families in the al-Maqarihah.

He completed high school in Sabha in southern Libya and joined the Military Academy in Banghazi in 1962. He graduated with the rank of second lieutenant in 1965. He ranked among the top 10 of his 55-member class. During his studies, he earned the rank of deputy sergeant and was appointed commander of a barracks, which also included al-Qadhdhafi.

Upon graduation, Jallud joined the Field Engineering Corps of the Libyan Army. In 1967, he was sent to attend a military course at Fort Benning in the United States, preceded by an English language course in San Antonio, Texas. Upon his return home, Jallud joined the Jalu camp in the Libyan Army as an engineering officer, where he remained stationed until the overthrow of the monarchy in September, 1969.

Jallud married into the al-'Aqab family of Tripoli just before the revolution. He remarried into the well-known al-Arzaramli family, also of Tripoli. Evaluations of his personality at school and during his first years in government vary. Some peers found fault with his unrestrained partiality toward a life of ease and luxury, but, in the same vein, they admired his distinction in military studies, his intellect, and his ability to comprehend even the most complex issues. In his book *'Abd-al-Nasir and Libya's Revolution*—banned in Libya—Fathi al-Dhib writes: "Jallud is a bright person with a great capacity for comprehending complex issues. Outwardly, he seems to be violent, firm, and strict, but deep down, he is so kind that, at times, he can seem as innocent as a child. He is credulous enough to believe whatever he is told, especially if it comes from someone who has been complimentary. He is excitable and sensitive to his surroundings. To the extent that the people around him are upright and give him the right advice, he will make the right judgments, and vice versa. He is flawed by an obvious tendency to indulge his instincts. Jallud has a strong and close relationship with al-Qadhdhafi, whom he holds in high regard."

The relationship between the two goes as far back as their school days in Sabha. Al-Qadhdhafi recalls that the two of them led a protest march in October, 1956. Thus, Jallud is one of al-Qadhdhafi's oldest colleagues, both in the military and in the Revolutionary Command Council. Libyan sources say that a meeting among al-Qadhdhafi, Jallud, and former U.S. Ambassador in Tripoli David Newsome was held in the Jarmah archeological region in 1968 to follow up contacts Jallud had in the United States in 1967.

Jallud was designated the second man in Libya immediately following the revolution, by virtue of the key tasks he was assigned. These included:

1. He led the first Libyan delegation to travel abroad after the revolution; the visit was made to Egypt where they met with President 'Abd-al-Nasir. That was even before the Revolution Command Council members were announced.

2. In October-November 1969 Jallud chaired the committee that negotiated the purchase of 100 Mirage-5 aircraft with the French Government. He put his signature on most of the arms deals, including the purchase of an SX-605 submarine for $7 million on 5 May, 1970.

3. Jallud led the Libyan side in the December 1969 talks with the British to work out terms for the evacuation of al-'Adam Base in Tobruk.

4. Jallud led the Libyan side in the December, 1969 talks with the Americans to evacuate Wheelus base.

5. Jallud was the chief Libyan negotiator in the 1970 talks with an American oil company to sort out such issues as concessions, production and price levels, and the nationalization of the oil industry. He established close ties with Armand Hammer—a Jew—the proprietor of Occidental Oil. Jallud remained in charge of the oil sector in Libya until August, 1982.

6. He chaired the Libyan side in secret talks with the Italian Government to negotiate compensation for the Italians who were expelled from Libya in October 1971.

7. Jallud was named interior, finance, and industry minister in an al-Qadhdhafi-led government that held office between January 1970 and July 1972. Jallud himself then led a cabinet that held office between July 1972 and March 1977, during which time he had direct and complete supvervision over oil, industry, and the bulk of the development projects, including housing, transport, communications, and agriculture. He took care to pick his ministers from among those who were loyal to him personally, like Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, 'Umar al-Muntasir, Jum'ah al-Arbash, and 'Abd-al-Majid al-Qu'ud.

8. Acting on the Egyptian Government's advice in 1971 to buy Soviet arms, Jallud moved to consolidate relations with the Soviet Union, so much so that he was dubbed Moscow's man in Tripoli.

9. Jallud acted for al-Qadhdhafi in leading the welcoming party at Tripoli airport for visiting heads of state.

10. Jallud helped chart the blueprints for union that Libya has sought to forge with a number of Arab states since 1970.

11. He played a principal role in setting up a political system in Libya, beginning with the experiment of the Popular Organization—he was charged with launching the organization—through the Arab Socialist Union—whose general secretariat was assigned to Jallud following the involvement of Bashir Hawari in an abortive coup in 1975—and ending with the experiment of the Popular Commitees and Congresses. From 1977 to 1978, he was a prominent member in the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress.

12. He led the Revolutionary Committees movement started by al-Qadhdhafi in 1978. The movement was under al-Qadhdhafi's total control, yet Jallud developed close ties with some of its members.

13. Jallud had no particular position in the General Command of the Armed Forces, yet al-Qadhdhafi put him in control of military operations during hostilities with Egypt in 1977, following which he was awarded a staff rank and put in charge of military operations against the Chadian forces in 1986.

14. Throughout these years, Jallud never hesitated to use his influence to recruit a large number of members of his al-Maqarihah tribe for service in the armed and security forces and the intelligence services. He also used his influence to forge close relations with many technocrats in all government ministries, departments, and other agencies. Next to the al-Qadhdhafah and al- Warfalah, the al-Maqarihah has the third largest number of men in the military, intelligence, and revolutionary committees.

15. Jallud developed good relations with many world figures from Italy, France, the Vatican, Turkey, India, China, Yugoslavia, Syria, Russia, and most of the former East Bloc countries.

Jallud's status as the second man in the Libyan hierarchy has not kept al-Qadhdhafi from marginalizing him on many occasions, however. According to sources close to the two men, Jallud was held under house arrest on numerous occasions. He was also grounded in military camps and sent to give lectures. Al-Qadhdhafi reportedly also put Jallud down on several occasions, including once describing Jallud as hated and irresponsible. Al-Qadhdhafi even sought to discredit him personally, as he did in a speech he made at a ceremony held by the Free Unionist Officers in 1978, and in another speech he gave on 7 October 1989.

In March, 1977 Jallud was dismissed from the premiership. He lost all official status in the state hierarchy when the Revolution Command Council was disbanded following the proclamation of what was called the people's power. Al-Qadhdhafi is said to have had him stay in Lebanon and Syria in 1976 for three months on the pretext that a close watch needed to be kept of developments in the Lebanese civil war. In 1986, al-Qadhdhafi arranged for him stay in Syria for a similarly extended period.

In the context of these tense relations, and at the instructions of his cousin al-Qadhdhafi in May 1986, Colonel Khalifah Ahnish began to get rid of many elements of the al-Maqarihah tribe in the Armed Forces and the security agencies. This move followed an announcement that an attempt at rebellion called "the al-Maqarihah attempt" had taken place. Jallud had been totally distanced from the task of supervising the oil sector since August 1982. He was succeeded by al-Qadhdhafi's cousin, Colonel Hasan Ashkal, who was assassinated in 1985. Jallud himself was exposed to an assassination attempt after the U.S. air raid in April 1986, which killed one of his escorts. The incident was corroborated by Colonel Yunis Balqasim, who was an important figure in the security services and who was later relieved.

Observers refer to an important incident that occurred after the Bab al-'Aziziyah operation against al-Qadhdhafi personally. It was carried out by the opposition National Front for the Salvation of Libya. The Libyan media distributed a videotape of al-Qadhdhafi's speech before soldiers in the Bab al-'Aziziyah camp in which he attacked "cowards and defeatists," "negligent officials," and "U.S. agents." Maj. Jallud appeared pale behind him throughout the speech, and photographers concentrated on him every time al- Qadhdhafi made a criticism.

Jallud resorted to every kind of complaint, protest, and criticism. Fathi al-Dib, who used to accompany the members of the Revolution Command Council, wrote in his book that Jallud opposed al-Qadhdhafi, who wanted to buy weapons from the black market in 1970. (page 196) He reported that rumors spread about differences between the two men, leading to the conclusion that the second-in- command was sent to Cairo on 11 March 1970. (page 208) Jallud complained about the way al-Qadhdhafi treated and rebuked the council members.

This led to many of the council members' traveling abroad in protest of his methods. As a result, al-Qadhdhafi decided to prevent any Revolution Command Council member from traveling abroad without obtaining written permission from him. (page 236) A heated discussion also took place between the two men during a session on 19 May 1970. (page 245) Jallud also objected to al-Qadhdhafi's speech before the Egyptian People's Assembly on 12 June 1970 praising "the positive Syrian and Iraqi positions." He criticized al-Qadhdhafi's attack on Palestinian guerrilla organizations (page 281), and Jallud and council member Captain Muhammad al-Maqrif, who was later killed, once withdrew from a meeting. The meeting was being held under al-Qadhdhafi to assess his trip to a number of Arab east countries on 14 November 1970 . (page 282) According to the book, the clash between the colonel and Jallud reached a serious point that endangered the unity of the council (page 185) due to differences over the formation of the government and Jallud's accusation that al-Qadhdhafi was delaying the declaration of the government.

In addition to Fathi al-Dib's book, other sources unanimously say—citing former Libyan officials—that Jallud was angry at a Council of Ministers meeting he chaired in 1973 following al-Qadhdhafi's declaration of what he called "popular revolution" in April that year. He spoke furiously about his central role in the revolution, saying: "All measures implemented since the 1 September Revolution have been agreed on, except two things: First, Islam (meaning the Islamic tendency al-Qadhdhafi demonstrated during the revolution's first years) and the popular revolution."

The same sources refer to the news conference Jallud held after the U.S. air raid in April 1986, at which he was asked about al-Qadhdhafi's residence (whose whereabouts had been unknown). He pointed his finger to the floor of the hall where he was sitting at Bab-al-'Aziziyah camp. This was interpreted, negatively, by some of al-Qadhdhafi's associates as a hint of hiding and escaping during the raid.

The sources said: "At the beginning of the crisis of the two planes, precisely in December 1991, Jallud spoke at a meeting that comprised several revolutionary committees' members, saying: I am not the second man in command, I am the first, repeat, first, man in command. He repeated the last phrase more than once."

The sources refer to a host of field conflicts in relations. In June 1982, Jallud conferred with elements of the revolutionary committees in Banghazi and accused them of being lenient, lacking revolutionary spirit, and being disloyal to the revolution. This visit was followed by an arrest campaign that included some elements loyal to al-Qadhdhafi, such as al-Tayyib al-Safi.

With the surfacing of economic problems during that stage, Jallud and al-Talhi (the latter became a prime minister) defended the hardline proposals, which called for austerity at the congresses held in al-Marj and Tripoli. Revolutionary committee elements loyal to al-Qadhdhafi confronted them, accusing them in the press of "sabotaging the economy and of being careless toward the Libyan people's suffering".

The sources said secret meetings were held at the Egyptian-Libyan border with the aim of bridging the gap between the viewpoints of both countries and resolving pending problems between them. The Libyan side comprised Khalifah Ihnayyish and 'Abdallah al-Sanusi. As the parties seemed to be approaching an agreement, Major Jallud suddenly interfered in the meetings and put an unhappy end to them.

The sources recall that in May 1990, when al-Qadhdhafi was in Baghdad after the Arab summit held there, reports spoke about a seaborne commando operation carried out by Palestinians who took off from the Libyan coast (the operation that led to the halt of the U.S.-PLO talks). The colonel's reaction was to rush to visit Egypt on his way back from Baghdad to emphasize to the Egyptian president that he was unaware of that operation, and that Jallud was responsible for the operation.

The sources also refer to the conflicting positions on the Gulf crisis in 1991. While al-Qadhdhafi followed a moderate stance toward that crisis, Jallud attacked the West and expressed Libya's preparedness to fight alongside Iraq. Likewise, when the struggle erupted between Algerian authorities and the Islamic Salvation Front, al-Qadhdhafi attacked the Islamists while Maj. Jallud stressed the Libyan revolution's alliance with the Islamic trend and awakening in the region, and in Algeria in particular (note Jallud's statements at the Arab democratic dialogue gathering held in Tripoli on 16 April 1992).

Another aspect of this incompatibility is their relationship with the Libyan opposition. While al-Qadhdhadi seizes every opportunity to describe the opposition as a group of stray dogs and deals with them on the basis of pursuit and liquidation within and without Libya, Jallud has not been known to have adopted a harsh attitude toward the opposition. Some even say he defended the opposition frequently and has called for absorbing it by accepting some of its concepts, and that he has personal relations with some of its leaders. However, he has poor relations with the opposition line represented by Major 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Huni. Observers attribute this to the incompatibility between Jallud and al-Qadhdhafi. Many cadres of 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Huni's line at times had come closer to al-Qadhdhafi, and met with him, including al-Huni himself. They maintained good relations with those close to al-Qadhdhafi, such as Ahmad Qadhdhaf al-Damm, who is at loggerheads with Jallud, not to mention that in all his statements al-Huni calls for transferring the provisional authority in Libya to Abu-Bakr Yunus Jabir, following al-Qadhdhfi's departure, something which angers Jallud by virtue of his post.

Libyan sources supporting the regime told AL-WASAT that the above analysis, whether true or not, does not mean that there is an incompatibility, but might be part of the distribution of roles among officials, as happens in most countries. There are many signs substantiating this, such as Jallud's not daring to make any decision as important as that of the commando operation without the colonel's knowledge, not to mention that his stands on the Iraqi regime and the Islamic movements are known, since he proclaims his hostility to them on every occasion. His way of life does not indicate that he supports the fundamentalists.

The same sources draw attention to the distribution of roles which could not have necessarily taken place with the agreement of the two parties, but could have taken place without Jallud's approval. It may be some kind of a political game or a frame of mind al-Qadhdhafi imposes on Jallud and others in command which they cannot but accept and humor. If Jallud refuses to adapt himself to this state, this means he will be overtly confronting al-Qadhdhafi, something for which he could not be ready.

However, Libyan opposition and unbiased sources agree that there is a hidden but real conflict that has not reached the point of open confrontation. These sources say this conflict has not been settled in favor of Jallud for the following reasons:

1. Jallud, himself, is not convinced the conflict has reached the point where it needs to be settled;

2. Some believe that while outwardly Jallud appears to have a strong personality, he is actually indecisive and that this has made him lose the opportunity to settle matters, although he has the position and the power to do so.

3. Western diplomatic sources say the real reason for Jallud's not settling the issue is that he still does not have the green light from the people with whom he has relations.

However, when asked why al-Qadhdhafi did not settle the conflict in his favor, the same circles attribute the answer to the following considerations:

1. The existence of big secrets between the two men, some of which date back to the prerevolutionary period and others to the postrevolutionary period. The following are some of these secrets:

A. The secrets of the relationship with the United States during preparations to topple the monarchy;

B. The death of Captain Muhammad al-Muqaryif, Revolution Command Council member, in August 1972;

C. The killing of the vice president of the GDR during a visit to Tripoli in March 1978;

D. The disappearance of Imam Musa al-Sadr during a visit to Libya in August 1978;

E. The secrets pertaining to the talks with oil companies, the evacuation of U.S. troops, and the Russian arms deal.

2. The existence of financial problems between the two sides, which ended with a joint agreement in 1982 on the joint signing of foreign accounts, in the billions of dollars.

3. Al-Qadhdhafi has no desire to antagonize the al-Maqarihah tribe, as well as Jallud's many supporters, who are spread throughout all state institutions in a way that can no longer be controlled easily.

4. Al-Qadhdhafi's knowledge of Jallud's special relations with the United States.

Where is Maj. 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud? Where does he stand on the decision concerning the pilgrims' visit to Jerusalem, on the Christian-Muslim-Jewish dialogue conference, on paying compensations to the Jews, on giving opportunities to the U.S. companies worth $30 billion, and on ideas to settle the Lockerbie crisis?

Is it true that he has refrained from assuming his job [mustankif] and is angry, and that he is supported by Prime Minister Abu-Zayd 'Umar Durdah? Is he waiting for a UN Security Council action on 15 August to intensify sanctions on Libya to benefit from popular grumbling in order to try to carry out a kind of corrective action? Or will al-Qadhdhafi surprise him and announce either a government reshuffle excluding all Jallud's loyalists from the center of decisionmaking, to pave the way for entering a decisive stage between the two sides, or announce that he will relinquish his powers?

These are questions which will be answered by future developments and which carry many possibilities. What is confirmed, however, according to observers, is that a clear change in the tempo of the relationship between the two men will take place before the end of this year. This is, of course, if the expected change in the entire Libyan political situation, does not take place.

Sudan

Foreign Ministry Denounces Israeli 'Aggression'

EA2907211593 Khartoum SUNA in English 1646 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Text] Khartoum, 29 Jul (SUNA)—The Sudanese Government has strongly condemned the Israeli aggression on sister Lebanon which is facing a series of air raids and artillery attacks by Israeli forces. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued here Thursday [29 July] a statement saying that Sudan is following with sorrow the situation in Lebanon, which is subjected by Zionist offensive aggression against Lebanon territories, causing heavy casualties, which make hundreds of thousands of innocent Lebanese flee their cities and villages. The statement said that the last Israeli aggression is a serious

escalation of the repeated violations of Lebanon's territories, sovereignty and independence.

Israel's refusal to implement the UN Resolution 425 on its withdrawal from southern Lebanon confirms Israel's expansion policies in a time that the international community seeks a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East question, the statement added.

The statement reaffirmed Sudan's stand with the sister Lebanon by all its potentialities to enable Lebanon to face this aggression, liberate all its lands and restore security and stability.

The statement urged the Arab nation to exert utmost efforts for restoring its solidarity and unity.

The statement confirmed the failure of the United Nations and international community in combating the Israeli aggressive practices towards the Arab nation, which stressed the United Nation's double-standard criteria in curing the regional and international issues under the new world order.

Al-Bashir Receives Visiting Italian Delegation

EA3007122093 Khartoum SUNA in French 1648 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Text] Khartoum, 29 Jul (SUNA)—General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and of the Council of Ministers, met the Italian parliamentary delegation currently visiting the country today. According to the Sudanese ambassador to Italy, Mr. 'Abdallah 'Abdallahi Muhammad Ahmad, the economic and political situation in Sudan, particularly and the southern question, were discussed. According to him, the delegation comprises a number of businessmen, who showed interest in contributing toward the development of economic relations between the two countries. Mr. 'Abdallahi Ahmad said the delegation would organize a symposium in Italy on relations between Islam and Christianity in Sudan with a view to informing Christians in Europe about relations characterized by tolerance.

Tunisia

Foreign Minister on Fate of Iraqi Deposits, Planes

LD2907172493 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1635 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Text] Tunis, 29 Jul (KUNA)—Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya emphasized the strength and depth of relations between Tunisia and Kuwait and said that they would be developed further in the future. [passage omitted]

Ben Yahya was speaking at a news conference with foreign press and media representatives, including one from KUNA, following the ruling Democratic Constitutional Rally's [RCD] second congress, which opened today in Tunis. [passage omitted]

Asked about the fate of Iraqi assets and deposits in Tunisia and of the four Iraqi aircraft at Tunisian airports, the Tunisian foreign minister said that the issue was related to the relevant resolutions of international legitimacy. He went on to say: There is open dialogue between the Tunisian Government and Iraqi officials, as well as an agreement between the two sides that the issue is not related to a Tunisian decision, but to a decision by the United Nations, the Security Council in particular, in that respect. [passage omitted]

Commenting on a question, Ben Yahya denied that his country may pull out its forces participating in the peacekeeping operation in Somalia before the end of their mission. He said: It is true that there have been excesses in Somalia, but the Tunisian contingent there receives instructions from the UN command and its mission is to intervene within the peacekeeping operation in Somalia. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Joint Kuwaiti-Bahraini Press Release Issued in Manama

LD2907134993 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 28 Jul (KUNA)—Kuwait and Bahrain have reiterated the need for Iraq to implement all UN Security Council resolutions relating to its aggression against the State of Kuwait; particularly those relating to the release of prisoners and hostages, both Kuwaiti nationals and nationals of other countries. In a joint press release published at the end of the visit to fraternal Bahrain by His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, the two countries welcomed anew UN Security Council Resolution 833. This resolution conclusively upholds the findings of the international commission in charge of the demarcation of the boundaries between Kuwait and Iraq, guaranteeing the inviolability of the international borders between the two countries in accordance with Chapter Seven of the UN Charter, in a way that brings real security and stability to the region. The following is the text of the joint press release. [passage omitted]

Official talks took place in an atmosphere of brotherhood and understanding. His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, prime inister of Bahrain, led the Bahraini delegation; His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, led the Kuwaiti delegation. The two parties discussed regional and international issues of common interest.

Regarding bilateral relations, the two parties expressed their full satisfaction with the fraternal and constructive cooperation existing between the two fraternal countries and with the continual progress of this cooperation in all fields. They asserted their determination to continue to firmly consolidate the foundations of this cooperation and to expand cooperation in ways which will bring good, prosperity, and progress to the two countries, which will serve their common interests, and will achieve the highest aspirations of their two fraternal peoples.

In this regard, the two parties decided to entrust the joint ministerial committee with implementing agreements made by the two leaders regarding consolidating their relations in all fields. [passage omitted]

As part of their review of the situation in the Gulf region, the two countries stressed the importance of achieving security and stability in the region and of keeping it free from tension. They stressed maintaining firm respect for the sovereignty of states on their own territories, solving differences by dialogue and peaceful means, achieving mutual respect among states and noninterference in internal affairs, and not allowing the seizure of others' land by force.

The two countries reiterated their satisfaction with UN Security Council Resolution 833. This Resolition furnished the final ratification of the findings of the international commission for the demarcation of the Kuwaiti-Iraqi borders and guarantees the sanctity of the international borders between the two countries, according to the terms of Chapter Seven of the UN Charter. Their satisfaction is based on the resolution's genuine contributions to the consolidation of security and stability in the region.

The two countries emphasized the necessity of Iraq's complete implementation of all the UN Security Council resolutions relating to its aggression against Kuwait, particularly those resolutions relating to the release of Kuwaitis and other nationals who are being held as prisoners of war or who are otherwise detained.

On the Arab level, the two countries expressed their full intention to continue to work together and with other fraternal Arab countries toward establishing an Arab order which is based on the principles and aims of the Damascus Declaration and which has goals compatible with the new world order. They stressed the necessity of respecting international legitimacy, the sovereignty of every country, and each country's right to manage its own natural and economic resources. They also emphasized the necessity of consolidating joint Arab action within the framework of the Arab League Charter in order to serve pan-Arab causes and the joint interests of the Arab nation.

The two countries also reviewed developments in the peace process in the Middle East and the efforts being exerted to make it succeed. They expressed their support for the peace process, which is aimed at finding a comprehensive, just, permanent solution for the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict, based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. They also supported the principle of land for peace; Israel's withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Arab Jerusalem, the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and the Syrian Golan Heights; and the unconditional Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon according to UN Security Council Resolution 425.

The two parties expressed their condemnation and denunciation of the Israeli air raids on Lebanon. They emphasized their solidarity with and support for fraternal Lebanon against these acts of aggression, which are not compatible with attempts to achieve peace in the region.

Concerning the situation in Somalia, the two countries expressed their concern and regret for the deterioration of security and living conditions in that fraternal country. They emphasized that they stand by the Somali people in their painfuul crisis, and welcomed the constructive efforts of the United Nations in reestablishing security and peace in Somalia.

The two countries stressed their complete rejection and absolute condemnation of the genocidal operations and

blatant UN violations carried out by the Serbian forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina. They appealed to the international community to stand firmly against these practices and to work toward redressing the situation in a way that preserves the legitimate rights of the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina and that guarantees security and stability in their country. [passage omitted]

His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah has addressed an invitation to his brother His Highness Shaykh Khalifah to pay an official visit to Kuwait. Shaykh Khalifah has accepted the invitation with gratitude; a date will be set in the near future.

Issued in Manama, Bahrain on 28 July.

Kuwait

* 'Ali Jabir Statements on Israel Anger Assembly

93P50249A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 26 Jul 93 p 9

[Report by Hamad al-Jasir]

[Text] Kuwait—The statements that the Kuwait Petroleum Board's member assigned to marketing, Shaykh 'Ali Jabir al-'Ali [al-Sabah], made to AL-HAYAH about marketing Kuwaiti oil in Israel sparked an angry reaction in the Kuwaiti National Assembly yesterday. Some of the deputies distributed texts of the interview that AL-HAYAH published last Tuesday, which included the shaykh's statement that "Israel's market will also become accessible for Kuwaiti oil sales when the Arab-Israeli peace talks succeed." Five deputies demanded a discussion of these statements. They demanded that the government provide a statement clarifying its position on this matter.

Minister of State [for Cabinet Affairs] 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dakhil requested that the Assembly, in accordance with its internal rules, postpone the discussion for two weeks to give the government a chance to prepare a response and commentary on al-'Ali's statements. On the day before yesterday, the National Assembly held a special session to finish discussing the details of the general budget. After the negotiations had gone on for five hours, it decided to suspend decisions on the budgets of the Public Corporation on Agricultural and Fish Resources Affairs and of the Kuwait Central Bank.

* Government 'Leaning Towards' Warrior APC Purchase

93P50253A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 28 Jul 93 p 9

[Report from Kuwait by Hamad al-Jasir and from London by the AL-HAYAH bureau]

[Excerpt] Brigadier Salim al-Mas'ud, commander of the ground forces in Kuwait, has announced that the government is leaning towards making a deal to purchase the British-made Warrior armored personnel carrier [APC] from the GKN Company, at the expense of the U.S. Bradley APC. The cost of the deal, which includes the purchase of nearly 400 APC's and training for the Kuwaiti Army, is close to $1 billion dollars. Al-Mas'ud did not disclose the number of APC's nor their armament. The spokesman for GKN refused to confirm the news of the deal. He told AL-HAYAH, "The Kuwaiti side has still not informed us of its approval of the APC which we manufacture and negotiations over the deal are still going on."

British newspaper accounts indicated last year that the APC's would be armed by an American company.

Al-Mas'ud said that military specialists in the Kuwaiti Army recommended the approval of the British APC "after carrying out tests and comparisons with other vehicles, measuring their suitability to the local climate, and testing their military capabilities." [passage omitted]

Yemen

House of Representatives Denounces Israeli Raids on Lebanon

JN2907171693 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Excerpts] The House of Representatives resumed its ordinary session this morning. The session was chaired by brother Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the House of Representatives. It was attended by brother Eng. Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, the prime minister, and brother members of the Cabinet. [passage omitted]

The House of Representatives issued the following statement: The House of Representatives is following, with great concern, the Zionist attacks that Israel recently carried out against Lebanon and its fraternal people under the very nose of the international community, the United Nations, and the UN Security Council.

The House of Representatives strongly denounces these Zionist attacks on a fraternal country that is a member of the Arab League, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the United Nations. It calls on Arab and Islamic parliaments, parliaments in friendly countries, and the Interparliamentary Union to take strong positions in order to force the Zionist entity to stop its aggression on Lebanon and to compensate for the Lebanese people's grave losses as a result of this blatant aggression.

The House of Representatives urges the United Nations and the UN Security Council to issue and implement, in an objective and fair manner, resolutions to deter the Zionist entity, forcing it to stop its attacks on Lebanon and its fraternal people in accordance with international laws, resolutions, and charters.

* Al-Ahmar on YSP, Arab Relations

93LH0010A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Jun p 6

[Interview of Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the Yemeni House of Representatives by 'Abdallah Hamuda and Hamud Nasr in Sanaa; date not given]

[Text] Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, Speaker of the Yemeni House of Representatives said that the portfolios obtained by his party, the Yemeni Reform Grouping, in the new Yemeni Government are not enough. He said that his party accepted five portfolios and a deputy prime minister's position in order to reach a conciliatory formula. His party also wished to reject the quota system that has prevailed during the interim period, which began at the unification of the two parts of Yemen on 22 May 1990 and has continued for almost three years.

In a private interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar said that this participation stems from a conviction that all capable national powers should take their part in shouldering the responsibilitis of government. Thus, the basis of power would expand, particularly since this follows the numerous shortcomings of the quota system during the reign of the government of the interim period.

He added that relationships with Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries should be normalized first and foremost for the benefit of Yemen and also for the common benefit of all these countries. He also expressed his regret for the negative reaction by some Kuwaiti parties to the Sanaa initiative to resume relations with Kuwait and to put an end to the situation that followed the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait on 2 August 1990.

The following is the text of the interview:

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] It was said that you had your opinion in the Yemeni Reform Grouping regarding participating in the government or staying in the opposition. You chose to join the governing coalition in order to play a role in Yemeni multilateral affairs. What is your opinion?

[Al-Ahmar] In fact, two years ago we in the leadership of the Grouping thought that the quota system between GPC [General Peoples Congress] and YSP [Yemeni Socialist Party] had more disadvantages than advantages. We became convinced that the responsibility should not be shouldered by one party; rather, all capable and active powers should participate in shouldering the responsibility.

After the elections and their results, we became convinced that our viewpoint was correct and it has now been justified. Subsequently, when the chairman of the presidential council and his deputy gave us their offer to participate we accepted.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Did that stem from a conviction that staying in the opposition would limit your contribution?

[Shaykh al-Ahmar] That was not the only reason. We were also convinced of the truth of our previous viewpoints, because going back to the quota system of the two parties is not correct.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Do you consider the number of portfolios that you got a fair share?

[Shaykh al-Ahmar] No, we do not consider them a fair share; however, based on our conviction that the quota system was not correct, we were not in a position to allow it to continue any longer. We agreed that we would participate in a spirit of reconciliation, whatever our share might be.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] It has been noticed that the ministers from the Grouping were the first to submit to the prime minister their ministries' plans of action for participation in preparing the government program. It has also been said that the best plan of action was the one submitted by the minister of health, Dr. Najib Ghanim. Is your plan for the work of the government completely clear?

[Shaykh al-Ahmar] We are very clear in our opinions, methodology, and programs. I believe they represent the will and interests of the people. We also chose qualified elements to participate in the government.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] It was also said during the consultations for forming the new government that your position as a speaker of the House of Representatives is equivalent to four or five cabinet positions. Is that true?

[Shaykh al-Ahmar] We heard that during the consultations, and it was said by the other powers, but my membership in House of Representatives came as a result of the election and not by appointment. On the other hand, it is a legislative authority and not a executive authority.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] This is the second time for you to head the legislative authority. You were the chairman of the Shura Council in 1961, and now you are the speaker of the current House of Representatives. What is the difference between the two experiences?

[Shaykh al-Ahmar] There is a very big difference. The chairmanship of the Shura Council thirty-two years ago was very different because the southern and the eastern governorates were not in the unified Yemen. They represented a separate country, while we were in another country. The aspirations of the people and their problems were much less than now. Most of the issues then were related to services or social issues and were not political, as they are now.

The Quality of the House of Representatives Members

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Is there a difference between the quality of the House of Representatives members of today and that of the members of the Shura Council in 1961?

[Shaykh al-Ahmar] Yes, the majority of the members now, with few exceptions, are members of political parties. In the past, members did not represent parties or trends but rather social classes, such as the heads of the tribes, the merchants, the scientists, the military, the youth, and the intellectuals. They did not have political trends or clear programs.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Due to your political and traditional influence, you interceded to put an end to the confrontation with the [legislative] authority in the case of Shaykh Tariq al-Fadli, but you did not intercede in the case of the former House of Representatives member Sultan al-Sam'i, who is still a fugitive. Is there a chance for you to intercede once more, and what are the precise circumstances?

[Shaykh al-Ahmar] There is a big difference between the two cases. The case of al-Fadli is related to an accusation that he harbored one of those who attempted to assassinate Mr. 'Ali Salih 'Ubad Muqbil. The accused had escaped and asked for the protection of al-Fadli, who refused to give him up. Al-Fadli did not have anything to do with the assassination attempt. Thank God, Muqbil was not hurt. There is no direct accusation of Shaykh al-Fadli. The security forces have arrested two of the main accused; the campaign against Shaykh al-Fadli is a political one. They used his return to his area, as the son of Sultan al-Fadli, where he found popular response and became the Shaykh of the area. They are now trying to resist the positions of the shaykhs and the sultans, which prevailed in Yemen long after the escape of al-Fadli's father when al-Fadli was still a young boy. They also used the escape of one of those accused in the assassination attempt, who is taking refuge with al-Fadli in order to attack him. That is one situation. The incident of al-Sam'i is completely different. He is accused in the murder of two members of the military police. He said his companions fired at the police because he said the police were trying to kill him. The authorities, however, say that al-Sam'i flagrantly attacked the police. He is still a fugitive, afraid that the security forces would kill him if he gave himself up.

The Arab Relations

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] You said that your relations with Saudi Arabia should return to the way they were before the Gulf War and the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. What is the basis of your claim?

[Shaykh al-Ahmar] This is in the best interest of us and of Yemen and of the two countries. We have to eliminate the consequences of what took place and return the relations to what they were.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Some Yemeni parties say that deciding the border issue and allowing the Yemenis who were working in the Gulf countries to return to their jobs should come first.

[Shaykh al-Ahmar] We do not accept any preconditions. Deciding the issue of the borders is in our best interest and is in the best interest of Saudi Arabia, in order to solve all our problems. All countries used to have border problems with their neighbors, and they have been solved. This is a very important issue that should be solved, before it leads to other problems and tensions that might hurt our relations in the future.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What is your opinion regarding the Kuwaiti reaction to the initiative of Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah, published in an interview in the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH?

[Shaykh al-Ahmar] We are sorry for the reactions of some of our Kuwaiti brothers. We did not expect such reactions. We expected that the three years that passed would have done away with tensions. If you had an argument with your brother, it is strange that its results would last for such a long time. We really blame our Kuwait brothers.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] You called for the establishment of a committee to support the Muslims in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Regarding the activities of the Grouping and your election to its chairmanship, what are the most important activities that you undertake, and what are the objectives that you would like to realize?

[Shaykh al-Ahmar] In fact, I issued this call in my personal capacity and also in my capacity as speaker of House of Representatives. I am convinced that the issue of the Muslims in Bosnia and Herzegovina is an Islamic humanitarian issue, a fact with which no one can disagree. It is not like some of the Arab political issues that are subject to controversy among different powers. There is a consensus among the Yemeni parties and the people at large regarding the issue of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We all regard it as a humanitarian and Islamic issue. It really touches us.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What are the measures that have been taken in this regard?

[Shaykh al-Ahmar] They are limited popular measures. Our government and the governments of other countries should do a lot, based on the cards they hold, to put pressure on the major powers who could do something to help this oppressed people.

New Social Affairs Minister Takes Constitutional Oath

JN2907174793 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Text] This morning, Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Batani took the constitutional oath as minister of social security and social affairs before brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council.

Spokesman Denies U.S. Aircraft Fired at Radar Sites

JN2907193093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1921 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Jul (INA)—An official spokesman this evening categorically denied a Pentagon report that two U.S. aircraft this afternoon fired two missiles at radar sites in the southern zone of Iraq.

In a statement to INA, the spokesman said no radar site in the southern zone was attacked, adding that no explosions were heard.

The spokesman added: The only explanation for this strange report by the Pentagon, as well as for a similar report on 24 July, is that certain quarters at the U.S. Administration want to distract the attention of world public opinion from the crimes being committed by Israel in Lebanon for five days.

Pentagon Said To Admit Allegations 'False'

JN3007090093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] Washington, 30 Jul (INA)—The Pentagon today admitted that allegations by U.S. pilots that Iraqi radars in the south yesterday locked on their planes are false.

The U.S. Department of Defense said the pilots made a mistake by alleging that two radar stations in southern Iraq tracked their aircraft, and said these were false allegations.

An independent source in Washington stressed that the Pentagon's disavowal of its statement yesterday and its acknowledgement of the two pilots' mistake gives credibility to the Iraqi statements on the two alleged incidents yesterday and on Saturday [24 July].

Iraq yesterday denied a Pentagon spokesman's statement that two U.S aircraft yesterday afternoon dealt with two Iraqi radar stations that locked on the two aircraft.

An official Iraqi spokesman last night said this statement reflects an attempt by certain U.S. quarters to divert the world public opinion's attention from Israeli conduct and attacks in south Lebanon, which have been going on since the beginning of this week.

The falseness of the Pentagon's allegations became clear even before it was acknowledged, when the U.S. Department of Defense spokesman failed to answer reporters questions, or give details on yesterday's incident—its location, what was destroyed, and when these targets were allegedly mobile.

U.S. Aircraft 'Violations' 20-26 Jul Protested

JN3007104293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0948 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] New York, 30 Jul (INA)—Iraq has protested to the United Nations over U.S. aircraft violations of Iraqi airspace for surveillance and provocation purposes.

In a memorandum to the UN secretary general, Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf said that U.S. aircraft conducted 432 sorties between 20 and 26 July.

Iraq's permanent mission at the United Nations asked that the memorandum be distributed as a UN Security Council document.

Iranian Attacks on North Protested

JN2907111893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Jul (INA)—The Iraqi Foreign Ministry summoned the acting Iranian charge d'affaires in Baghdad today and handed him two strongly-worded memorandums of protest dated 26 and 28 July.

INA has learned that the two memorandums dealt with the details of Iranian Armed Forces' attacks from 19 to 25 July 1993 in the [word indistinct] areas in northern Iraq. The memorandums included the following:

The Republic of Iraq Government reiterates its strong protest against these flagrant and unjustified aggressive acts, calls on the Iranian Government to stop them, and holds it fully responsible for their consequences. It also stresses that Iraq has the full right to compensation for damages resulting from these acts. Iraq also enjoys a legitimate and legal right to take whatever action it deems appropriate to defend the sanctity and sovereignty of its territory and the security of its people.

Baghdad Said Seeking 'Package Deal' on Oil Sales

JN2907184593 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1725 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Text] Diplomatic sources in Baghdad have said Iraq is no longer seeking to sell limited quantities of oil under strict UN supervision.

The sources added that the Iraqis are now seeking a package deal and that they want the United Nations to lift the oil embargo in return for cooperation on unresolved weapons questions.

Damascus Said Taking 'Orders' From U.S. on Lebanon

JN3007085093 Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton has praised the Syrian regime's self-restraint over the Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon. Having said this, he said that this regime should play a bigger role, in which Syria would exercise even more self-restraint. Of course, Clinton knows what role the Syrian regime has been asked to play, and the Syrian regime has responded to these requests—intelligent people don't need to be told explicitlly what they should do.

What does Washington want the Syrian regime to do vis-a-vis the Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon? This question is not difficult to answer. It goes without saying that Washington has adopted the Zionist viewpoint on the causes behind the current situation in southern Lebanon, and holds the Lebanese national resistance responsible for the explosive situation. Thus, the United States has given the Zionist enemy the green light to pursue its aggression, in spite of the timid anxiety it has voiced and its phony requests to immediately check the exacerbation of the situation.

Since the U.S. Administration holds the Lebanese national resistance responsible for the current situation, this means that all those who can, should exert efforts to check the activities of the Lebanese national resistance, and take appropriate measures to paralyze its ability to launch future military operations. Since the Lebanese authorities, for many reasons, can only assume a political role on this level, Washington addresses the Syrian regime, which can assume the decisive role on this level.

Damascus can bring to bear sizable political pressures in this respect. It also can exercise a direct role, on the ground, that will begin by besieging the Lebanese national resistance, harrassing it, and ending by striking it.

The United States wants the Syrian regime to be responsible for the stage that will follow the Zionist aggression. It wants the Syrians to continue the chapters of aggression and complete the task of striking at this resistance and paralyzing its activities. The United States is aware that the Syrian regime will not hesitate to carry out any such requests since it has placed itself in the service of the U.S. and Zionist objectives, and has assumed, since 1982, the task of completing the future chapters.

The Syrian regime received orders from Washington and the signs that it has started to respond to these orders have appeared in the form of frenzied political acitivities that are a prelude to exercising multifaceted presures on the Lebanese national resistance in the service of the Zionist enemy's objectives and in response to the requests by the U.S. Administration to this agent and traitorous regime.

EC To Grant $16 Million in Emergency Aid

NC2907153193 Paris AFP in English 1423 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Text] Irbil, Iraq, July 29 (AFP)—The European Community is to grant 14.24 million ECU (16 million dollars) in humanitarian aid to help Iraq through the summer, an E.C. official announced.

Tony Watkins Burton, coordinator for E.C. aid to Iraq, told a press conference Wednesday in the northern Kurdish-held city of Irbil that most of the aid would go to the Kurds as well as the Shiite Muslims of southern Iraq.

The funds will be used for food supplies, the rehabilitation of villages and energy needs.

Contacts Said Under Way for Cease-Fire in Lebanon

Officials Deny Reports

TA2907123993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Text] AFP has reported from Beirut that the U.S. Secretary of State informed Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri over the phone that Israel will cease fire this evening. The U.S. ambassador in Beirut told President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz that Israel decided to stop the firing at 1800 [1500 GMT] this evening. This morning al-Hariri ended a three-hour meeting with a Hizballah delegation. Lebanese Government sources announced that the cease-fire is part of a U.S. plan whereby Hizballah will undertake the cessation of katyushas firing at northern Israel, Israel will stop its military activities in southern Lebanon, and the Syrians will take an active role in calming down emotions.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the Foreign Ministry has no knowledge of the U.S. plan for a cease-fire, and up until now the report has not been confirmed by any other source.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman also said he knows nothing about the cease-fire plan.

The U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv does not know anything about the plan either.

Beilin Confirms Negotiations

TA2907145093 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1400 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Studio interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Amnon Levi—live]

[Excerpt] [Levi] The prime minister has denied that a cease-fire is imminent, but are contacts being held toward a cease-fire today?

[Beilin] I do not know about today; I hope it will happen as soon as possible. Contacts are being held, and there is an ongoing American effort aimed at arranging a cease-fire. We have a vested interest in that. As you know, we are not pursuing the same goals we did in the Lebanon war. Our present goals are very limited, and the moment they are attained, we will be the first to seek a cease-fire.

[Levi] Who is holding the contacts? The U.S. secretary of state himself?

[Beilin] I do not want to discuss details, but I can certainly state that they are being carried out by senior echelons at this very moment.

[Levi] AFP reported that Warren Christopher talked with the Lebanese leaders at noon today. Do you know anything about that?

[Beilin] Again, I do not want to discuss the details of these negotiations. I would regard it as more than natural for the United States, Lebanon, and Israel to hold such talks.

[Levi] What are our terms for a cease-fire?

[Beilin] We have one single, clear condition: We want all katyusha attacks on the Galilee to stop. The moment they do, the moment Hizballah terminates its activity against Israel, we will stop all firing against south Lebanese areas beyond the security zone.

[Levi] Judging by the prime minister's remarks at a news briefing yesterday, this goal is almost unattainable. What you are in fact saying is that if we seek a total end of katyusha attacks on the Galilee, the operation may go on for many months.

[Beilin] If we were seeking a 40-year hiatus in the katyusha attacks—which is how someone once defined our goals—that would be true.

[Levi] Even 40 weeks would be quite a formidable goal these days.

[Beilin] Perhaps, but we are very pragmatic here. We understand the problems Lebanon is facing, and no one is therefore speaking of 40 years. We are saying that if the firing of katyushas on the Galilee stops, we will stop our own firing without mentioning anything about an eternal cease-fire. It will not be a decision about an eternal cease-fire anyway.

[Levi] Warren Christopher is due here on Sunday [1 August]. Is that some kind of a deadline as far as efforts to achieve a cease-fire are concerned? Do you believe fighting will end by the time he arrives?

[Beilin] I sincerely hope so. I sincerely hope that the fighting will stop by his arrival—without any connection with his arrival, because today is Thursday and he is due here Sunday, and I hope we will attain a cease-fire by then. Another thing we deem very important is to have the debates with the U.S. secretary of state focus on the peace process, and not the cease-fire. If they do not, we will miss a very important visit. [passage omitted]

Guarantee Sought

TA2907190393 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Excerpt] Our political correspondent reports that the United States is taking vigorous action toward a cease-fire in south Lebanon. Warren Christopher has personally telephoned the leaders of Israel, Syria, and Lebanon. Until now, the prime minister has received no promise that the launching of katyushas at Israel will cease, and he has therefore refused to consent to a cease-fire.

Our correspondent Gadi Sukenik was told by political sources that the cease-fire may be implemented immediately when it is guaranteed that the launching of

katyushas will stop and that Syria and Lebanon will prevent it from resuming in the future. [passage omitted]

Rabin: No Cease-Fire Before Goals Attained

TA2907144393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1346 GMT 29 Jul 93

[News conference with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin held at "an IDF base in the north"—live]

[Text] [Rabin] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] operation has clearly defined goals. The main goal was to change the patterns of activity of the terror organizations in Lebanon, and primarily of Hizballah in their activity against our forces and targets inside Israel. The main goal was to make sure that the Israeli citizens and settlements not become Hizballah hostages when it clashes with the IDF and SLA [South Lebanese Army] forces in the security zone. As long as the goals of Operation Accountability have not been accomplished, there will be no termination of IDF activity, in accordance with the plan and stages the operation should follow. Therefore, all the reports alleging that a cease-fire will take place at 1800 [1500 GMT] today are baseless. We will continue our action until we attain our goals in a way acceptable to the Government of Israel. That is all. True, discussions have been held with the United States regarding this issue, but I will not elaborate on the details of the discussions.

[Indistinct question by Karmela Menashe]

[Rabin] If they value their lives—for long as the operation continues, and as long as we have not attained our goals—the residents of the north will have to follow the IDF instructions as they are issued in the various sectors along our border with Lebanon.

[IDF Radio's Netan'el Semrik] Mr. Prime Minister, is there no risk of getting dragged into a protracted war of attrition?

[Rabin] I hope this does not turn into a protracted war of attrition. Still, we launched the operation in order to attain clear goals. We will not stop it before the goals are attained.

[Indistinct question by Jerusalem Television's Moti 'Eden]

[Rabin] The operation is made of several components, designed to provide results which would constitute the attainment of the goals. The IDF was not assigned the mission of eliminating Hizballah as a military goal. The IDF was ordered to do its best, under the constraints imposed on it, to inflict maximum damage on Hizballah forces, mainly those operating against targets in Israel. Hence, the results reached so far are good, but certainly there still are Hizballah forces in Lebanon. Those squads are still operating, and we see the results of this every day.

[Indistinct question on Syrian-Israeli agreement regarding the operation against Hizballah]

[Rabin] I cannot discuss things I do not know about. Certainly not when they do not regard Israel. I will, therefore, not address myself to media speculation.

[HA'ARETZ's Eytan Rabin] Can you confirm the reports that Hizballah has been receiving reinforcement? Also, will this operation have an effect on the peace process?

[Rabin] Regarding your first question, it is reasonable to assume that during the time of tension before, as well as during the operation itself, Hizballah forces in the south were reinforced. I do not believe it was massively reinforced in a way that would change the overall picture in south Lebanon.

As for the second question, I do not believe peace negotiations can be held when the settlements of the Israeli northern border come under katyusha fire from Hizballah terrorists, which in addition to its aim to harm Israel and the security zone, wants to harm the peace negotiations. Any delay in the continuation of the peace process in the wake of Hizballah activity would be an achievement for it, an achievement for those who want to harm the peace negotiations.

[Unidentified Jerusalem Television correspondent] Can we understand your announcement to mean that Hizballah has decided to stop its attacks on Israel? Another question: Could we expect that in anticipation of Christopher's visit in the region, Israel will accept the U.S. demand to stop the shooting?

[Rabin] As for the first question, I will not deal with Hizballah reasoning, nor do I care about them. I want us to attain the goals set for Operation Accountability.

As for your second question: Anything is possible.

[MA'ARIV's 'Imanu'el Rosen] Does the success of our effort to harm the ability of Hizballah to launch katyushas explain the decline in the number of the katyushas fired recently?

[Rabin] I believe that their ability to launch katyushas was harmed, though not enough as to prevent this completely under the current circumstances.

[Prime Minister's Spokesman Gad Ben-Ari, in English] And now, this is the prime minister's statement in English:

[Rabin] We decided to carry out military activities.... [Interrupted by Qol Yisra'el's anchor, summarizing the main points of the news conference so far]

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, how intensive are the diplomatic efforts from United States and others? Is there anything promised at this time?

[Rabin] It is better to ask the U.S. officials about it. I do not believe that I have the privilege to discuss it. There

were contacts between Israel and the United States. With whom the United States conducted its discussions is the privilege of the U.S. Government to disclose. On my part, at this stage to discuss details of what I know—and there are certain items that I am not sure I know about them. [sentence as heard] I believe that what I have said—and this is the main point of my statement—is: We are continuing our military activities. There will be no cease-fire at 1800 hours today, as long as the goals of this operation have not been achieved.

[Rabin, continues in English] [passage omitted] ...the suffering of the Lebanese population. But we believe that instead to turn to us, they have to turn to their government, to the Lebanese Army, to make sure that the Lebanese Army will be in control of the Lebanese territories from which Hizballah launches its katyusha rockets against us.

[Question indistinct]

[Rabin] I agree. Therefore, any postponement of whatever has been decided to be done for the advancement of the peace negotiations will be a great victory to the Hizballah. All the parties that are involved in the peace negotiations have to bear it in mind. At the same time, Israel cannot tolerate a situation that because of our readiness to make peace, our settlements and towns along the Lebanese-Israeli border will be rocketed by Hizballah. I believe it is the responsibility of the Arab countries, Lebanon or whoever is ready to support Lebanon, to take control of the Hizballah and to bring about a change. No more katyushas on our settlements.

Receives Call From Christopher

TA2907211393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2100 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Text] Israel will be willing to stop its offensive in Lebanon provided it receives a commitment that Hizballah will stop firing katyushas on the Galilee, political sources this evening told our political correspondent Shlomo Raz.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin spoke on the phone with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. They discussed the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] operation in Lebanon and the chances of introducing a cease-fire.

Rabinovich Says No U.S. Pressure for Cease-Fire

TA3007060193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Interview with Itamar Rabinovich, ambassador to the United States, by Arye Golan in Washington—recorded]

[Text] [Golan] Ambassador Rabinovich, when can we expect a cease-fire on the Israeli-Lebanese border? Is it possible already today?

[Rabinovich] No, I do not think that any of us—and certainly not the Americans who are actively trying to stop the violence or fighting—have a stopwatch in hand. I think all sides want this affair to end with an arrangement that will not only end the fighting, but will also terminate the problems causing this outbreak. This will not necessarily happen overnight.

[Golan] Are you aware of any American pressure on Israel to cease fire and stop bombing Lebanese villages?

[Rabinovich] Absolutely not. The word pressure does not exist in our present dialogue. The Americans are trying to solve the present problem together with all sides. They realize the situation is complicated. There is absolutely no pressure here, rather a joint effort.

[Golan] What is your reaction to the harsh remarks of the State Department spokesman, namely that Israel is bombarding Lebanese civilians on purpose?

[Rabinovich] I think the spokesman was reacting to the sights and sounds emanating from the region, and this is more an issue of public image and appearances. Regarding relations with us, we did not sense any hard feelings, bitterness, or pressure.

[Golan] Can we infer from the demand posited both to Hizballah and Israel to cease fire that as long as Hizballah continues to fire katyushas at northern Israel, the latter is not required to end its own bombardments?

[Rabinovich] Our basic claim has wider implications than the mere firing of katyushas; it has to do with the fact that an organization like Hizballah can create a regional crisis at will by firing katyushas at Israeli territory. The United States realizes that this problem must be solved. Everybody knows that Hizballah is in fact an arm of Iran. The United States is maintaining a dual containment policy toward Iran and Iraq. Yesterday an interesting hearing was held in Congress, in which the CIA chief testified about the Iranian challenge. From this point of view our basic claim is received with understanding.

[Golan] Finally, Ambassador Rabinovich, if U.S. efforts to bring about a cease-fire fail, is it possible that Secretary Christopher will postpone his visit to the Middle East for a day or two—especially because he is also dealing with Bosnian crisis?

[Rabinovich] There are rumors of a slight delay—and I emphasize the word slight—in the secretary's timetable. The context for this is certainly Bosnian rather than Middle Eastern. It is true that the secretary of state would have preferred to arrive here after a cease-fire—not only because this is more safe and pleasant, but because he would have preferred to devote his visit to the basic problems rather than the present crisis. From the point of view of the American political agenda, however, the Bosnian problem is much more sensitive.

[Golan] So it is possible that he will postpone his visit to the Middle East. Is this why you postponed your visit to Israel?

[Rabinovich] I think such a postponement is possible, but I want to emphasize that it will only be a slight delay which will not harm the basic timetable and the fundamental aims of the visit.

[Golan] Thank you very much, Ambassador Rabinovich.

Says Syrian, Lebanese Effort Needed

TA3007081693 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Telephone interview with Itamar Rabinovich, Ambassador to the United States, by Mikha Friedman and Menahem Horowitz—recorded "earlier today"]

[Excerpts] [Friedman] Ambassador Rabinovich, can you describe the U.S. efforts for a cease-fire in south Lebanon, and how will this cease-fire look?

[Rabinovich] We are talking about two things here. First, a cease-fire in the literal sense. Second, solving the fundamental problem that brought about last week's operation. Here we require the agreement and goodwill mainly of Syria, but also of Lebanon, to act and to enforce their decisions on Hizballah—which, while not taking orders from them, is influenced by them.

[Horowitz] Does this mean that Israel will posit red lines regarding Hizballah's future activity in Lebanon, that is, that it fire only at the security zone, not at Israel?

[Rabinovich] We are not using the term red lines, and we are also not speaking explicitly about permitting firing at the security zone. The significant thing for us, however, is that no fire be directed at Israeli territory.

[Friedman] I understand that Israel wants U.S. guarantees, in order that this document—if indeed it takes the form of a document—will be of value. What kind of guarantees can the United States give us to ensure that the agreement will persist for as long as possible?

[Rabinovich] First, we are not speaking here about a written agreement. We are also not requesting any U.S. guarantees. It is clear, however, that the Syrian and Lebanese Governments will be those who will have to give what you just termed guarantees. The Lebanese Government will have to do this as the sovereign power, and the Syrian Government as the de facto power in Lebanon. They will have to guarantee—not to us directly, but to the United States—that the norms of behavior mentioned earlier will be preserved.

[Horowitz] Six days after the fighting began, the residents of northern Israel want to know when will these guarantees be given and calm is restored.

[Friedman] People in the north are impatient, Professor Rabinovich.

[Rabinovich] We are not procrastinating. The entire embassy staff is dealing with this issue around the clock. We will not be those who delay a solution.

[Horowitz] So can we say that the chances for attaining calm in the north hinges on diplomatic efforts in Washington rather than continuing IDF [Israel Defense Forces] bombardments in Lebanon?

[Rabinovich] No. I think we are dealing here with a double-pronged effort, where, in addition to the military operation that created the present dynamics, there is a political activity on the part of the Israeli Government and its emissaries abroad, us included.

[Friedman] It is somewhat strange that Syria, which has not acquiesced to a similar U.S. request to stop Hizballah from firing at our northern settlements 10 days ago—prior to the outbreak of battles—will agree to do so now. What will be its price?

[Rabinovich] We are talking here about a positive price and a negative price. After all, Syrian soldiers and equipment have been harmed. Syria knows that continued tension will not necessarily be confined to the sectors the operation has concentrated on so far. Syria is interested in good relations with the United States and continuing the peace process. Much is at stake here from the Syrian point of view.

[Friedman] Are you explicitly saying here that Syria is facing military risks as a result of continued fighting, that is, that the fighting can penetrate into areas under Syrian control and that the Syrian Army can be hit worse than it has been so far? How much has it been harmed so far, in fact?

[Rabinovich] I am not hinting at anything. It is a fact, however, that Syrian forces were hit on the first day of fighting. In praising Syrian restraint, the U.S. President actually hinted that other possibilities were on the agenda. When one starts a fire, it is not clear how far it will spread.

[Friedman] Will Syria be compensated politically? Will there be any Israeli gestures or concessions along the negotiations track on the Golan Heights?

[Rabinovich] No. I want to state in unequivocal terms that the present contacts on a cease-fire have nothing to do with this. Syria, however, indeed expects that its goodwill and efforts will win points in the United States. [passage omitted]

[Friedman] Prof. Rabinovich, if Israel is about to reach a comprehensive agreement with Hizballah, is there any reason for not reaching similar agreements with the PLO in the peace negotiations?

[Rabinovich] Since we are not talking about an agreement between Israel and Hizballah, there is no point in drawing such comparisons.

[Friedman] Thank you very much, Prof. Rabinovich.

Peres Comments on Operation, Court Decision

TA2907132493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1045 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says that even if Hizballah returns to south Lebanon following the battles, it will not hurry to direct fire toward Israel, because from now on it will know what price it will be required to pay. Peres made these remarks to news editors meeting at Bet Sokolov in Tel Aviv. Our correspondent Ilan Lazarovich reports:

[Begin recording] [Lazarovich] Foreign Minister Peres was invited to brief the editors about Operation Accountability and about the peace process. He opened his address, however, with the trial of John Demjanjuk. Peres said that even if one does not like the court's decision, it proves the independence and high quality of the Israeli court system.

Regarding the fighting in Lebanon, Mr. Peres said the end of fighting can come about any day—once the firing at the Galilee stops. Peres added that when this happens south Lebanon's villagers will be able to return home. Peres said that even if Hizballah men will be able to return to south Lebanon after a cease-fire arrangement, they will not hurry to attack Israel again, because they will know what price they will have to pay for this:

[Peres] It is possible that they will all return to their places, but they will have learned a lesson. There will be a new menu with new prices. Those who will want to be served from the previous menu will have to realize that the prices have gone up.

[Lazarovich] Minister Peres reiterated that in his opinion the operation in Lebanon will not endanger the peace process, because nobody is willing to deposit this process in the hands of Hizballah. The foreign minister hoped that the fire in the north would stop prior to the arrival of Secretary of State Christopher in our region.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 29 July, reporting on Peres' remarks, adds the following: "Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres makes the assessment that the fire in Lebanon will stop prior to the visit of Secretary of State Christopher to our region early next week, and that the secretary will not have to deal with this issue."

[In an interview to be broadcast on the Israel Arabic television's "Meeting" program this evening the foreign minister also said that "Israel will not make the continuation of the peace process conditional on Syrian action against the katyusha firing. Also interviewed on this program will be Faysal al-Husayni, who was apprehensive that the political process could be harmed by the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] operation in Lebanon."]

Regarding the issue of missing navigator Ron Arad, Mr. Peres said that despite the fact that the present confrontation is with Hizballah, in whose hands—or in the hands of other Iranian forces—Arad is supposed to be held, he does not believe that the operation in Lebanon will harm efforts to release him.

Referring to criticism of the operation emanating from within the government, Peres said this is legitimate, but it is inconceivable to criticize without coming up with alternatives, and so far this has not been done. [end recording]

Baraq: Operation To Continue 'As Long as Necessary'

TA2907171793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1426 GMT 29 Jul 93

[News conference held by Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, "a short time ago"; broadcast in progress; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Baraq] ...the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] operation continues today. Combat planes and helicopters and artillery are directing fire, seeking to hit the sites of Hizballah and terrorist organizations' activities and carrying out a series of activities in a bid to impair the launching of katyushas and to harm Hizballah personnel. This activity, which continues inflicting grave damage on Hizballah's physical and human infrastructure, will continue as long as necessary, until all the objectives of Operation Accountability are achieved.

Meanwhile, as you can see, katyushas are still being launched. In this sense, we have not achieved our goal in full. As long as the launching of katyushas does not stop, and a long as we fail to attain a situation in which no katyushas are fired at the Galilee in the course of or as a result of our activity in and beyond the security zone, our operation will continue.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Chief of Staff, how long do you estimate the population of Israel's north will remain in shelters? They have been there for the past five days.

[Baraq] In my opinion, the population is displaying great stamina. There have been two civilian fatalities and some 30 wounded so far, and everyday life has been disrupted. However, this test of strength, which is a test of will, of stamina, and of endurance, is of supreme importance. We must show that we will not be the first to lose either our strength or our ability to withstand hardship. I am convinced that our population can endure it for as long as it will take us to achieve our objectives, and Hizballah must not be allowed to think that we live by a stopwatch and that a few more hours, a day, or two more days will be the limit of our endurance.

[Qol Yisra'el's army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe] Has the IDF carried out its activity as planned so far?

[Baraq] The activity has been pursued in accordance with the plan, and in many senses, it has achieved more than we had anticipated for this stage. This refers to

every aspect: Harm to infrastructure and personnel, a certain achievement in lowering the rate of katyusha launching, and separating the population from Hizballah, which permits us free action against Hizballah in their usual activity sites.

[Menashe] How effective is this IDF activity, and should we not worry that Hizballah will resume its actions as soon as the IDF holds its fire?

[Baraq] Look, we had one fatality and several slightly wounded so far, while the damage suffered by Hizballah was far greater. In this kind of operation, we take advantage of our relative edge over Hizballah. Basically, our position is better. By the way, when I spoke of one fatality, I was referring to the IDF; I mentioned earlier that there had been two civilian fatalities. We are sure that we will be able to continue this activity. We have not run out of ammunition, methods, or means, but it would be pointless to discuss them here. It would be better for Hizballah to encounter all these threats to their lives and activities in the field.

[IDF Radio's Moshe Shlonsky] Mr. Chief of Staff, has Hizballah shown signs of breaking after five or six days of fighting, and are you aware of any U.S.-mediated negotiations that might possibly usher in a cease-fire?

[Baraq] We are not waiting for any definite moment when Hizballah will announce that it is broken, that is quitting the game, that it is surrendering. We are using the duration of its activity to harm it as much as possible, both its personnel and infrastructure, and there are new Hizballah casualties every day. We consider this a favorable outcome. We estimate that there is a good chance that eventually, the goals of Operation Accountability will be attained.

[Shlonsky] What about the U.S. mediation?

[Baraq] It was no accident that I refrained from answering that question. We, the IDF, continue operating on the basis of the same plans, and we are pursuing every direction, including action against katyushas, harming Hizballah, and detecting and destroying katyusha launchers in villages. We will continue as long as our objectives are not met. It does not matter to us exactly how these objectives are attained, as long as they are attained in full.

[Unidentified correspondent] Chief of Staff, I have two short questions: One, does the criticism leveled by various cabinet ministers encumber the IDF activity? Two, will the IDF attempt to prevent food supplies, troop reinforcements, and warfare means from getting to Hizballah in south Lebanon?

[Baraq] The IDF is subordinate to the Government of Israel. It has always operated, it is operating, and it will operate within parameters set down by the government. There is an ongoing dialogue between the army and the defense minister. IDF representatives, including myself, appear at cabinet meetings to explain our stands. I think this dialogue is very important, and disagreements in the cabinet and between us and the cabinet are a wholesome thing. None of us would want to live in a country where disagreements cannot be vented. The government's decisionmaking process is not kept obscure, and there is no doubt about the IDF's total subordination to the political echelons and its duty—and even right—to carry out every task assigned by the political echelons.

[Unidentified correspondent] You did not answer the question about warfare means.

[Baraq] We are taking very diversified action, and I would not want to discuss the details of any of these spheres pertaining either to methods or to the exact targets.

[Unidentified correspondent] Chief of Staff, this operation was defined as a phased operation, and the cabinet was requested to approve the various phases several times already. Assuming there will be no escalation in the direction of land combat, are we now in the midst of the final stage, or will the IDF activity become more intense every day? My second question: What do you regard as the main damage inflicted on Hizballah to date? Since the foremost objective of the operation was said to make the Lebanese population flee northward, what was the main damage to Hizballah? My third question....

[Baraq, interrupting] As any military operation, this operation consists of several stages, but it was presented to the cabinet as a single unit, and that is how the cabinet knows it. The cabinet decided on the points at which its renewed approval was to be sought. The cabinet is familiar with this operation as a full and clear picture. The gist is that we will continue the operation as long as necessary, and we will use every means at our disposal to achieve the goals set down for the operation. The operation will stop when these goals are achieved.

[Unidentified correspondent] Concerning the damage inflicted on Hizballah [words indistinct]?

[Baraq] The main objective of the operation was to stop the current launching of katyushas and to create a new reality in which katyushas are not fired at the Galilee in retaliation for our activity in and beyond the security zone. This reality should come into being, and this is the goal of the operation. In the meantime, while the operation is under way, we rejoice at every aspect of damage caused to Hizballah—and there have been quite a few areas of that, including personnel, katyusha launchers, logistic infrastructure, field installations, vehicles and launchers, and indirectly, even the environmental infrastructure which backed its activities.

[Unidentified correspondent] Chief of Staff, katyushas are being fired even as you speak. We are five or six days into the operation, and they are still firing. When do you estimate they will stop launching katyushas?

[Baraq] They are indeed firing, albeit at a slower pace than in the first two days. And since they are still firing, the operation is continuing. We will know when they stop firing and when the appropriate conditions arise; only then will the operation end.

[Unidentified correspondent] You said you did not want to address the issue of contacts, but do you detect any Syrian readiness to help end this crisis?

[Baraq] I do not think it is either appropriate or politic for me to assess or guess the Syrian intentions and trends. The Syrians can influence this reality. They can influence Hizballah activities, and if they want to, they can contribute to restraining or limiting Hizballah. As for the rest, it is up to the Syrians. They are a serious element; they know what they have to do, and they will act in accordance with their interests when they choose to do so.

Ministers Criticize Baraq; Support Said Eroding

TA3007111293 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 30 Jul 93 p A3

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] Over the past several days, tension has mounted between cabinet ministers with reservations about continued shelling of south Lebanon villages and Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, the chief of staff. On one occasion, even Prime Minister Rabin was forced to express his displeasure with Baraq's remarks, and Baraq was forced to retract his statement that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] "is expanding the shelling of south Lebanon every 12 hours, while calling on the population to evacuate in between attacks."

Rabin told Baraq: "drop it"; while Foreign Minister Peres remarked: "Surely, you do not mean what you said." In addition to the four Meretz ministers, several other ministers have frequently criticized Operation Accountability, not hiding their displeasure with Baraq's conduct, who they say, often argues on the political level and refuses to deal with serious criticism.

In various forums last week, Ministers Arye Der'i, 'Uzi Bar'am, Moshe Shahal, David Liba'i, and Ora Namir expressed reservations regarding the escalation, and demanded to be told how the prime minister intends to end the fighting. A situation has been created where at least half of the cabinet ministers did not support the operation to begin with, or currently regret having supported the plan as presented by the chief of staff.

Following the pressure of one of the ministers, Ehud Baraq was forced to change the description of the fourth stage of the operation, which referred to the IDF "readiness" to launch a ground operation when the government approves it. Minister Yosi Sarid complained to the prime minister and defense minister that unidentified officers have told reporters that the IDF must fight on two fronts at the same time: against the Hizballah, and against certain elements in the government. Sarid said that the remark is "scandalous," and claimed that someone is already preparing an alibi for failure. Rabin rejected the complaint, and suggested that Sarid not trust press reports because he, Rabin, can present opposite quotations.

Tourism Minister Voices Concern

TA2907145993 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 29 Jul 93 p 13

[Interview with Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am by Orli Azulay-Katz on 28 July; place not given]

[Excerpt] 'Uzi Bar'am does not clearly say that he is opposed to the entry of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] infantry forces into Lebanon, but this is surely what he thinks. He emphasizes that Rabin asked the ministers not to say anything of the kind, as they would thus be playing into the hands of Hizballah, which rushes to boast that "the IDF soldiers are cowards."

Still, the tourism minister does not keep mum about the criticism he has for the operation. He claims that the IDF pressure that is causing the Lebanese villagers to flee northward and exert pressure on Lebanese Prime Minister al-Hariri is destined to fail.

"It is a great pretension to think that these civilians are leaving the villages as first class citizens and later returning there as second class citizens," 'Uzi Bar'am said in an interview with YEDI'OT AHARONOT yesterday. "We failed in assessing al-Hariri's reaction once already. That was when Hamas [Islamic Resistence Movement] members were deported. We could not conceive of a situation whereby he would not allow the deportees to enter Lebanon.

"It seems to me that we are mistaken anew now in thinking that al-Hariri will act one way or another because the refugees are approaching Beirut. Besides, we will achieve the opposite goal: After a while, the refugees will return to the villages, beaten and bitter, having lost their property and undergone the trials of the road. There is no reason why they will not continue to help Hizballah.

[Azulay-Katz] Whose idea was it to cause tens of thousands of villagers to abandon their homes and to exert pressure on the government in Beirut?

[Bar'am] The idea was the Army's, with the defense minister's approval. Two weeks ago Rabin already brought the idea to the cabinet. But four of the five ministers who spoke were opposed, and the idea was shelved. A week later, the circumstances changed. Hizballah did not heed our warnings. The matter was brought to the cabinet a second time and approved then.

[Azulay-Katz] It was claimed in the cabinet that the operation is aimed at defending the Galilee. How do you propose to do that?

[Bar'am] Those who want to be sure that katyushas will not continue should be prepared to expand the operation, and I am opposed to this. (When Bar'am says expanding he means the entry of infantry forces—Orli Azulay Katz). Expanding the operation contains numerous risks for the political process, too.

I know that I will be asked now what solutions I have. It is possible to be popular indeed and invent all sorts of solutions, but I will not do so. The only solution, in my opinion, is to reach a political settlement with Syria and Lebanon, and then they will have an interest in imposing their will and control on Hizballah.

[Azulay-Katz] You abstained from voting on the second stage of the operation, namely on the point of exerting pressure on the villagers to leave. Did you try to explain your position?

[Bar'am] I did not try to convince them, since the matter was approved in the Ministerial Committee on National Security Affairs before it was brought to the cabinet. The first and second stages were approved there, and there was no point arguing. I stated my opinion, though. I said that 100,000 refugees cannot exert effective pressure. Some thought otherwise.

[Azulay-Katz] Do you think that this operation will sabotage the political process?

[Bar'am] I still hope that Christopher's visit will constitute a breakthrough in the negotiations with the Syrians. If there is some political settlement, Syria and Lebanon will do all they can to impose their will on Hizballah, even if this will involve tension between Syria and Iran.

[Azulay-Katz] The Israeli Government has traumatic experiences in supervising operations in Lebanon. In your opinion, do you, the ministers, know everything that is happening?

[Bar'am] What Sharon did was a trauma indeed, but the feeling now is that the government has control over the operation and that the defense minister is following developments very carefully. Sharon's trauma is so deep, almost national, that it surely influences the decision-makers, and everything is done differently. Rabin takes care to brief the ministers and listens to their opinion. The prime minister enables the ministers to express their opinions freely and to ask questions.

[Azulay-Katz] Incidentally, you voted in favor of expelling the Hamas people, did you not?

[Bar'am] Yes, and that was not one of the moments of which I am proud.

[Azulay-Katz] This time you only abstained in the vote. You are opposed to the operation, but you still did not vote against it.

[Bar'am] There was no point because the Ministerial Committee on National Security Affairs approved in advance, automatically, the transition from the first to the second stage. [passage omitted]

Officials Explain Operation's Goals to Foreign Media

Beilin Defends Attack on Lebanon

LD2907124893 London BBC Television Network in English 2130 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin in Tel Aviv by correspondent Sue Cameron in London on 28 July; from the "Newsnight" program—recorded]

[Text] [Cameron] Is your country in danger of jeopardizing the entire peace process by its actions?

[Beilin] I believe that what is happening is just the other way around. What we are doing is accelerating the peace process and preserving it. What happened lately is that the Hizballah groups in Lebanon tried to stop the peace process and did it by launching rockets against Israel. I believe that the main aim announced by them was to put an end to the peace process while they believed that it was close to a conclusion.

[Cameron] But when Warren Christopher comes is he not going to have to act as a fireman? He is going to have to start to clear up the mess instead of being able to further the peace process.

[Beilin] Well, I believe that this is a very important point, and I hope that until he comes this operation will be over since the Hizballah will not launch missiles and rockets against Israel, and on our side our artillery will stop as a result of it.

[Cameron] Mr. Beilin, Israel in effect is acting as a recruiting sergeant for Hizballah. I mean, all those young people who remember, as they will do, being driven out of their homes in the summer of 1993 are going to go and join up. You are just going to have a bigger, stronger Hizballah acting against you.

[Beilin] Well, this is a very important question, sometimes you are prevented from doing something like that because you believe that the ramifications maybe eventually negative and counterproductive. On the other hand, it is impossible not to do anything when your own people are being hurt time after time. We restrained ourselves for a very long while, for several months. Our main aim was to continue the peace process, but now it was impossible for us not to do anything before several days because of the repeated attacks against Israel. I believe that we had to do something, we did it at the right time.

I cannot ignore your question. It is not totally unimportant, but I believe that when you weigh the two options on the scales you had to do something. And what we did, I hope, was the right thing, and I believe that if we will be able—and that is my belief, a very strong one—to make

peace in a matter of months and not in a matter of years, all those reminiscences will evaporate.

[Cameron] Well, you say that, but there are now thousands of refugees on both sides of the border. How are you going to get out of it? You have got yourselves in; it's going to be much more difficult to bring a stop to it, surely.

[Beilin] No, not at all. You are not speaking here about refugees on either side of the border. I believe that once the fire is stopped on both sides, those people displaced will immediately go back to their places, to the villages, and the whole story will be over. I think that we are speaking here about a matter of very few days.

[Cameron] Why could you not exercise restraint for a little longer?

[Beilin] Because we could not ask our people to become a kind of sitting ducks for a very long time, that is why they are having a Defense Ministry to protect them. This government is going to make very big concessions in the near future, we cannot on the one hand make [word indistinct] concessions and on the other hand tell those people in the northern part of Israel you have to wait, you have to be the victims of the lunatic groups like the Hezbollah or whatever who do not want anything from Israel but that we all should evaporate, and maybe eventually they will put an end to it. I don't think any responsible government could have done it.

Ambassador on Conflict With Hizballah

BR3007111093 Brussels DE MORGEN in Dutch 29 Jul 93 p 9

[Report on interview with Ambassador to Belgium Yitzhaq Mayer by Wim De Neuter and Frank Schloemer in Brussels; date not given: "Yitzhaq Mayer: 'World Understands Israeli Action'"]

[Text] Brussels—"The action taken by the Israeli Army in southern Lebanon today unfortunately is not yet over. Meanwhile, we hope that the operation will be concluded as swiftly as possible. It is not a repetition of what happened in 1982. This action must be limited as far as possible. In no way is it linked with any territorial objectives. It is not even intended to result in the occupation of any territory, not even temporarily. It certainly is not intended to provoke skirmishes with the Lebanese Armed Forces, and even less so with the Syrian occupying army."

These are the words of Yitzhaq Mayer, the Israeli ambassador in Brussels. The interview was granted after a rather angry Israeli Embassy asked our editorial staff whether it also would print the Israeli view regarding the recent conflict. Mayer was born in Antwerp, Belgium, in 1934 and managed to flee with his family before the German Army occupied Belgium. In 1946 he emigrated to the then Palestine.

Hizballah

"The operation is aimed at preventing Hizballah from carrying out katyusha rocket attacks against the civilian population of northern Israel. In recent months, Hizballah supporters have carried out a whole series of rocket attacks, including some on targets in Galilee and various towns. By mounting these attacks, Hizballah has demonstrated very clearly that it wants to derail the peace process itself."

"We believe that this development never would have come about if the Lebanese Government had done everything it could to prevent these actions from being launched from Lebanese territory. The same applies to the Syrian forces, because Lebanon does nothing without first consulting Syria. Hizballah has infiltrated the Lebanese population in areas controlled by the Lebanese and Syrian Armies. From there, Hizballah can mount operations with impunity against Israel, a country with which Syria and Lebanon officially are involved in peace negotiations. We have warned both governments often enough. The reactions that we are seeing today in general indicate that the majority of countries in the world understand the Israeli actions."

Uninhabitable

[DE MORGEN] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has stated that the aim of the operation in Lebanon is to "make southern Lebanon uninhabitable." What does this mean exactly? Should we interpret this as referring to a kind of ethnic cleansing like that taking place in Bosnia?

[Mayer] I am not aware that the prime minister said that, and, if so, I would suspect that it has been poorly translated. I do not know what your sources are.

[DE MORGEN] REUTER, DPA, international agencies. The whole world press heard it, including the Israeli press.

[Mayer] I also have read the press reports and have found no trace of any such comment. What the prime minister said was that if the situation in northern Israel becomes precarious and lives are endangered, then a similar situation will be created on the Lebanese side of the border. There will be no peaceful climate on one side of the border if there is no peace on the other side. So, I would deny that the prime minister ever made such a statement.

It is inadmissible to compare what is happening in Bosnia with what is going on in Israel. In no way does Israel intend to drive the population away. Israel maintains a presence there to guarantee the safety of its citizens, but this has nothing whatsoever to do with ethnic cleansing.

[DE MORGEN] It is said that before this operation began there were contacts between the Israeli and Syrian Governments, which also would explain why Syria has reacted with such restraint, in fact, barely reacting at all.

[Mayer] We know that the Syrian regime is very much aware of the consequences of the attitude that it has displayed toward Israel in recent decades. We know that Syria is prepared—and preparing itself—to conclude a peace agreement with Israel. That may well involve a slow, laborious process, but Syria finally realizes that there is only one alternative for the region: to conclude a peace agreement. We only can hope that Syria will not allow an organization like Hizballah to derail the peace process. As for direct contacts, I can say that Mr. Ross, head of the U.S. delegation that visited us recently, handed over a message from the Israeli Government to the Syrian leadership.

[DE MORGEN] In actual fact you are asking the impossible. Israel is demanding that the Lebanese and Syrians take action against Hizballah, a party that is represented in the Lebanese Government.

[Mayer] You must draw a clear distinction between analyzing what could happen and determining the responsibility borne by Israel. Admittedly, Hizballah is a movement that also is active in the political arena. It has taken part in elections and its representatives have been elected. You cannot, however, conclude on this basis that the military wing of Hizballah should go unpunished for actions undertaken on our sovereign territory. That is precisely the message that we want to convey with our operations: We are dealing here with a terrorist movement that is active politically under Lebanese sovereignty; the sovereign Lebanese Government must put an end to the actions of this movement. For the sake of Lebanon and the entire region, I really hope that this does not lead to a resurgence of the civil war in Lebanon. The Lebanese Government still recognizes the right of Hizballah and the Palestinians to take actions against Israel.

[DE MORGEN] Because up to a point the Lebanese Government and Hizballah are demanding the same thing of Israel; namely, the implementation of UN Resolution 425—in other words, the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the so-called security zone in southern Lebanon.

[Mayer] There is a clear choice to be made here. Should UN Resolution 425 and the elimination of the security zone be treated at the negotiating table or on the battlefield? That is precisely what we currently are discussing with the Lebanese at the negotiating table. However, mixing up these two options would constitute a political innovation that totally is without precedent in the annals of history. The Lebanese raised the topic of UN Resolution 425 and the elimination of the security zone at the negotiating table. So, they cannot now let this issue be brought up by a terrorist organization. Doing so would undermine the peace process.

[DE MORGEN] Yet does the military operation currently being carried out by the Israeli Army not represent a direct threat to the peace process?

[Mayer] We know full well that Hizballah is not firing off katyusha rockets merely to kill a few civilians. The terrorists are doing it to torpedo the peace process itself. Hizballah and its patrons must have believed that they could get away with attacking us without fear of reprisals. We have shown a great deal of discipline and only resorted to action when it was absolutely necessary.

We believe that the peace process does not depend on Hizballah. It is inconceivable to us that an organization of this kind should have the power to shift the very foundation of Syrian policy, because this would mean that Syria is a particularly weak country and therefore a dubious dialogue partner.

Rhetoric still plays an important role. The Arab world has brought too much misfortune on itself through rhetoric. And rhetoric could still cause a great deal more misfortune. I only can hope that this action will contribute toward establishing a political realism, according to which there is just one possible solution to the conflict: a peace settlement under which nobody gets everything that they want and everybody has to part with things that are precious to them.

Air Force Commander Reviews IDF Operation

TA3007091993 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) 30 Jul 93 pp 4, 5

[Interview with Major General Herzl Budinger, Air Force commander, by Ari'ela Ringel-Hoffman on 29 July; place not given]

[Excerpts] [Ringel-Hoffman] Major General Herzl Budinger, how do you assess the operation so far?

[Budinger] We have met our expectations, things are developing according to our estimates. Some of the results, I may say, are better than our estimates.

[Ringel-Hoffman] What results are you referring to?

[Budinger] The goal was to hit Hizballah, which has settled among the civilian population, and we feared that this population might also be hurt. It was clearly necessary to separate between Hizballah and the civilians they use as a shield. This had to be done gradually.

There were doubts whether the Lebanese people would follow our suggestions, how quickly they would act, and whether we would tire before then. By the operation's second day, the civilians left the towns and villages en masse, making it possible to hit the targets that were defined earlier.

[Ringel-Hoffman] Which are?

[Budinger] There are many such targets.

[Ringel-Hoffman] For instance?

[Budinger] Reference is not to military targets, except those in the al-Biqa' region. Near the security zone, we are talking about Hizballah installations.

[Ringel-Hoffman] What are "Hizballah installations"?

[Budinger] For instance, ammunition warehouses, communications rooms, and housing of known activity. Sometimes it is only commands, but it is usually houses where Hizballah family members also live, alongside the commands.

These houses are often located near public places such as schools, mosques, and hospitals, and this has made it difficult for us to hit them. Today, when all these areas are being gradually evacuated, it is also possible to attack these houses in a more thorough manner.

[Ringel-Hoffman] You speak of staged war. Major General Amnon Shahaq, the deputy chief of staff, said that the pace of progress in this operation depends on Hizballah. Does Hizballah dictate the pace indeed?

[Budinger] Very much so.

[Ringel-Hoffman] At what stage are we today?

[Budinger] The level of Hizballah's activity has greatly decreased. There is a dramatic decline in the number of incidents. Their ability to move and advance is very limited. We know that they are in distress.

[Ringel-Hoffman] Could you give us a scenario leading to an absolute end of the operation?

[Budinger] Without a general agreement among elements which can influence Hizballah in the area, it will be impossible to stop the operation. At stake here is not only stopping terrorist actions today or tomorrow, but an agreement that will last for weeks and months.

[Ringel-Hoffman] Who can guarantee this?

[Budinger] The Lebanese or Syrian regimes. In certain sectors, where this is possible, we already see that the Lebanese Army is disrupting the Hizballah activity.

[Ringel-Hoffman] How is this expressed?

[Budinger] By erecting roadblocks and preventing passage and activity of Hizballah people, for example. [passage omitted]

[Ringel-Hoffman] Give us an idea about which planes are operating in the area and what ammunition is being used.

[Budinger] We use all types of planes within our inventory. To the extent necessary we attack with fighter planes for various needs, but especially where care needs to be exercised for target precision. As for ammunition, in some of the cases we used guided bombs, which enable us, with their precision, to hit point targets.

In cases where the targets are isolated from the civilian population we use regular bombs, especially for financial reasons.

[Ringel-Hoffman] There were reports to the effect that the IDF is using phosphorus bombs. Is that true?

[Budinger] No. Let me state this unequivocally: We do not use such bombs.

[Ringel-Hoffman] The Air Force reports that targets are hit. Do we always hit the targets?

[Budinger] The results are very good, and the photographs arriving from the battlefield bear witness to this. Here, you can tell from the shots I am showing you the pre- and post-strike target. You can also clearly see that the houses in the area, very close to the target, were left unscathed.

[Ringel-Hoffman] What about reports of great destruction or damages inflicted on towns and villages? Seventy percent of the village of Jibshit, for instance, is reportedly destroyed.

[Budinger] I do not know about the destruction of town quarters or villages. I do not think there is wild firing. I know that the hits are very precise.

[Ringel-Hoffman] Then is it artillery causing this destruction?

[Budinger] As a member of the General Staff, I can say I do not know of wild firing. I do not know anything beyond this.

[Ringel-Hoffman] You meet with junior and veteran pilots. What can you say about their morale?

[Budinger] It is high. Pilots who are required to strike at targets and manage to obtain precise hits have every reason to be pleased. The incessant presence of assault helicopters in the Lebanese skies has undoubtedly greatly decreased Hizballah's activity and seriously affected the mobility of the katyusha launchers.

To sum up the results of the last five days: 40 katyushas were fired on the first day, 44 on the second, 18 on the third, 12 on the fourth, and 17 on the fifth, 13 of which landed in Israel's territory, with very little accuracy.

[Ringel-Hoffman] Are you also pleased with the results?

[Budinger] No. I will be pleased only when no katyushas are launched.

[Ringel-Hoffman] There were rumors that one of our planes was hit.

[Budinger] I am happy to say that no plane has been hit so far. Up till this very moment, this is the most successful operation ever carried out. The casualty toll is two civilians killed and one soldier killed.

[Ringel-Hoffman] The Air Force is suffering from the trauma of Ron Arad who fell captive during a bombing sortie. How do you cope with that during the current operation?

[Budinger] This matter has been discussed in all squadrons. It was made crystal clear to the pilots that we prefer one less attack if it may endanger the pilot involved. This

is an expanded field security operation. It is not a war. The danger that a pilot will fall captive is certainly one of the worst dangers of the operation.

[Ringel-Hoffman] You said this is not a war, right?

[Budinger] Right. The Air Force is performing 100 sorties per day, much less than what it is capable of in war times. This is surely a limited operation. [passage omitted]

Katyushas Continue To Hit Galilee Panhandle 30 Jul

No Injuries Reported in First Attack

TA3007082993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0807 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] A katyusha was fired from Lebanese territory toward the Galilee panhandle a few minutes ago. Nobody was hurt, and no damage was caused. IDF [Israel Defense Forces] artillery is returning fire toward the source. This is a first katyusha firing since yesterday.

Damage Caused by Later Attack

TA3007102893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] Two katyusha volleys were directed at the Galilee Panhandle and western Galilee approximately 15 minutes ago. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that there were no casualties. The volley directed at the Galilee panhandle, however, landed in a populated area and caused damage.

Peres, al-Husayni Interviewed on Peace Process

TA2907184593 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1545 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian negotiating team, by Shlomo Ganor and Yoni Ben-Menahem on the weekly "Meeting" program—recorded; Peres interview passages in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles; al-Husayni's interview passages in Arabic with Hebrew subtitles; processed from original languages]

[Excerpt] [Ganor] Gentlemen, Mr. Peres, Israel has been operating against Hizballah and other terror organizations targets in Lebanon for the past five days. What are the new rules of the game Israel wishes to introduce to the northern border?

[Peres] Israel wants it to end fast. The Israeli goal is very modest: we want Hizballah to stop firing katyushas at Israeli settlements.

[Ben-Menahem] Can this be done?

[Peres] I believe it can, and I expect matters in Lebanon to go back to normal soon. In fact, once the firing of katyushas stops, I believe, we can go back to quiet and the people who went north, the refugees—which we all regret—will be able to return home.

[Ben-Menahem] Will the residents of Qiryat Shemona be able to return to their homes without fear of katyushas falling there?

[Peres] This is our condition. We want it promised that katyushas will not fall on Qiryat Shemona or any other place in the Galilee.

[Ganor] Who could vouch for that?

[Peres] Those who were responsible so far. The agreement will be the result of the confrontation. We did not start it. Were it up to Israel, we could have done without this whole affair. One day, Hizballah attacked two posts in south Lebanon, without any provocation on our part. The same night it fired katyushas at the Galilee, again we did not provoke it. I hope they return to the previous rules of the game. They were not all that great either, but at least they allowed a normal life for the Lebanese villagers and the Israeli citizens.

[Ganor] Mr. al-Husayni, can the Palestinian leadership impose its orders on the various Palestinian factions to adhere to a cease-fire and stop firing katyusha rockets on Israeli villages?

[Al-Husayni] First of all, I would like to remind you that a Palestinian-Israeli cease-fire agreement was signed in 1981. The Palestinian leadership was able to impose this cease-fire for about one year until Begin and Sharon launched their attack, which destroyed this agreement and created a new situation from which all of us have been suffering until now. However, I would like to say another thing. Ultimately, security cannot be obtained through military operations, but through the establishment of a genuine peace. Peace can bring security, but security cannot necessarily bring peace.

[Ben-Menahem] Mr. al-Husayni, there are factions like those of Ahmad Jibril and Islamic Jihad—Palestinian factions—that are not committed to PLO decisions. The question is whether you can impose a cease-fire agreement on these two factions?

[Al-Husayni] Let me say that there is a peace process which must move forward. The more this process advances, the more those who believe in the necessity of a peaceful solution will attain greater credibility, whereby they will be more in control of the situation. You are well aware that since 1982 and as a result of the 1982 war, the Palestinian leadership no longer has the same control as before, but I believe that if the peace process moves forward, the Palestinian leadership, in cooperation with Lebanon, will be able to guarantee a cease-fire.

[Ganor] Mr. al-Husayni, is the Palestinian side still committed to continuing in the peace process despite the Israeli operation in Lebanon?

[Al-Husayni] I believe that the military operation in Lebanon and everything that we are witnessing now is the result of deadlock in the peace process, not vice versa. For this reason, we believe that advancing the peace process is extremely important in order to end these dangers that we are facing. At this moment, however, with Israel's unilateral move, made without taking into account everything that is happening around the region, I believe the peace process is facing a real danger.

[Ganor] Will you raise this issue at your meeting today with Yasir 'Arafat in Cairo?

[Al-Husayni] There will be no meeting with President Yasir 'Arafat in Cairo. He is still in Asia, but I will meet with other Palestinian officials and this issue will be discussed.

[Ben-Menahem] What is the Palestinian stance on Syria? Syria can stop the firing of rockets by Hizballah.

[Al-Husayni] This issue is not related to us and Syria....

[Ben-Menahem, interrupting] Syria is a partner.

[Al-Husayni] Yes, but this is a Lebanese situation. There is a big question in Lebanon: Where are the negotiations going? We have not reached anywhere, either on Lebanon, Syria, or Palestine. Until now the Syrians have not received a clear answer from Israel that it is ready to implement Resolution 242 in full and withdraw from all the occupied territories. The situation is unclear. Consequently, this creates tension, new situations, and a legitimacy for the kind of moves that do not serve the peace process.

[Ben-Menahem] Mr. Peres, has Operation Accountability delivered a death blow to the peace process, as the PLO claims?

[Peres] Absolutely not! We have had good relations with Lebanon; we were good neighbors. We have no claims on Lebanon, either territorial or political. In fact, Lebanon was destroyed, and is still being destroyed, by organizations which do not serve Lebanese interests. In the past there were several organizations, and now it is simply the involvement of Hizballah, which is subject to Iran. I urge them to leave Lebanon alone. Israel will be the best neighbor. Not a single Lebanese resident will be hurt, not an inch of Lebanese land or drop of Lebanese water will be taken. Our aspiration is to see Lebanese President al-Hariri, who opted for the economic issue, united, calm, and advancing Lebanon—provided that the foreign forces, including Iran and Hizballah, stop risking its life. This is the real Israeli interest.

[Ben-Menahem] So, you do not accept the PLO claim that this is the end of the peace process.

[Peres] Of course not. What is the end of the process? Life ends? We will go on living tomorrow as well. How will we do this? In wars? Who wants to go back to war and terror? The matter will only end when we bring about a normal life for the Israelis, the Jews, the Arabs, and all humanity.

[Ganor] Mr. Peres, will Israel make the continuation of the peace process conditional on more massive Syrian involvement in the prevention of katyusha fire on northern Israel?

[Peres] We make no conditions. The peace process depends on the peace process. I would like to add something regarding Hizballah and Lebanon: What does Hizballah want? To destroy the peace process. Who controls Hizballah: Syria, the Lebanese Government, the PLO, who?

[Ganor] Iran?

[Peres] And Iran wants peace? It also does not. Hence, it is Israel's exclusive role to silence the katyushas and the guns that want to murder the peace process. Regrettably, the operation against Hizballah is also an operation for peace.

Now, I wish to address Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, with the fullest respect and friendship: Israel now has a government that does not want to rule the Palestinians, that is willing to return territories to the Palestinians, and that is seriously concerned with Israel's security in view of the existing climate. The Palestinians have to understand it. We do not want to rule the Palestinians, and we do not want terror to rule either the Palestinians or Israel. Therefore, since I believe there is a great deal of understanding between us, let us decide which is better: Take that which has been agreed upon and implement it, or wait until we agree to everything, while doing nothing. I say, let us divide the situation into two chapters: The one agreed upon will be executed; and we will continue negotiating the rest. I am certain that time is of the essence for you as well. We have no interest in having the residents of the territories—Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip—suffer economically or otherwise. We believe that you can run your own lives. We have no business in running the life in Hebron, Nabulus, or Gaza. Furthermore, it is in our interest that you live under the best possible conditions because good neighbors are the best guarantee for peace.

[Ganor] Mr. al-Husayni, would you like to comment on Mr. Peres' remarks?

[Al-Husayni] There is a Palestinian leadership that decided to engage in this process and wants to achieve the same goals that Mr. Peres mentioned now. We agreed on an interim stage in order to, at least, achieve the things agreed on, but there is a basic condition for this, namely, if there are other points under dispute, we have to leave them as they are and not introduce changes to them. The ongoing Israeli activity, whether with regard to expanding and planning settlements within the West Bank or with regard to continuing the measures that change the feature of East Jerusalem by settling more Jews in Jerusalem, all these make the issue of Jerusalem

one that we cannot leave until the final stage. We cannot leave the issue of settlement activity until the final stage. If we want to leave these files until the end, they should at least not be affected by unilateral changes.

[Peres] In general, we stopped all settlement on our own free will because we do not want to add settlements in regions densely populated by Arabs. There was no ultimatum, condition, or pressure. This means that we alone determine the map. Also, we have changed the policy of subsidies to the existing settlements. We know, Mr. al-Husayni, that we are in disagreement over the issue of Jerusalem. Leave this issue for the stage of the discussions of the permanent solution. Today, we must take into account that the maps are not the only complicated thing. The peoples' hearts are aching, yours and ours. We have to go on a voyage from a very harsh climate between Israelis and Palestinians to a different climate in which we will have more respect for and confidence in each other. Let the ship sail! You know there is no chance of us making any compromise regarding Jerusalem. Just the opposite. The more we are held up over the issue of Jerusalem, the greater the gap and disagreement between us will grow. We both have publics to answer to. Instead of negotiating, we are deepening the gaps between us. We stopped the settlements, which no government has ever done before. Let me tell you that the Madrid conference was held when there were settlements in the territories. Neither the Palestinians nor anybody else said: Stop the settlements, and we will come to Madrid. I believe they were wise to do so. Today, there are a series of issues we can immediately start working on.

[Ganor] For example? Make an offer.

[Peres] Gaza, for example, I believe is an issue ready for a decision. And it could be Gaza and something else. I am not ruling this out.

[Ganor] Something in Judaea and Samaria?

[Peres] Possibly. Under certain conditions, this could also be considered. We need to examine this. We are not saying, Gaza alone. We say Gaza First, and we will go on from there. We said in Washington that all the territories are a single unit. We want to map the powers, not the locations. That is, every location will have to come under a different authority—a Jewish settlement will have to be under Jewish rule, a security area, roads will have to come under a different authority. Then, there are many more issues we could address. The Palestinians can immediately start running things there. We refer to issues such as taxes, education, health, industry, and many others.

I also want to tell you, Mr. al-Husayni—and I know we share similar views, and I am happy about this—at the end of this century, political solutions are not enough for the Palestinians or the entire Middle East. We must also provide economic solutions. It is not enough for people to have their honor restored. They must also have respectable living, the Arabs as well as us. Therefore, I believe we have to introduce economic aspects, as well. We want the quality of life in Judaea and Samaria, and Gaza, to rise. They currently live on $1,200 to $1,500 annually, while we live on $12,000—there is no reason for this. The Palestinians are an intelligent nation; they can do it.

[Ganor] At this stage, let us allow Mr. al-Husayni to comment on Mr. Peres' proposal on the transfer of powers, the taking over of powers and control over the Gaza Strip, as well as over something else in the West Bank, as mentioned by Israel's foreign minister.

[Al-Husayni] I believe that the PLO has clearly stated that it is possible to study the issue of Gaza and Jericho, or other areas in the West Bank, provided agreement is reached over this matter and provided the interim stage is also implemented in a different perception inside the other areas, something like disengagement, such as that carried out in the past on the Syrian and Egyptian fronts. This idea deserves to be discussed, but there is a sensitive issue....

[Peres, interrupting] What is that?

[Al-Husayni] The issue of Jerusalem. I agree that this issue is sensitive, but if raising this sensitive issue at the negotiating table might undermine the negotiating process, you have to agree with me that raising the issue with more construction and changes in Jerusalem also undermines the negotiating process. What we are saying is that if Jerusalem has a special status, let that status remain and be respected and observed by both parties. If, however, Israel continues to highlight the fact that Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Israel without taking into account the Palestinian stance, or the possibility of reaching a final solution over Jerusalem in the future, I believe this might undermine the entire negotiating process.

[Peres, interrupting] I would like to say two things about Jerusalem: We do not want either the Arabs or the Jews to stop building. Jerusalem is a living city with hundreds of thousands of residents, for which there is a need to build schools and hospitals for both peoples. You cannot talk about settlements in Jerusalem. It is a single, united city. Jerusalem has two aspects: One refers to the interim solution of the autonomy; the other regards the question of whether the residents of Jerusalem with a Jordanian passport could vote, which is the practical question. If you say that Israel should stop construction in Jerusalem, it would again be an ultimatum that we would reject, and is unnecessary. It would only waste our time. If you tell us you want to develop more schools and hospitals, we will accept this. We will not put a halt on building in Jerusalem, neither for the Arabs nor for the Jews. I am certain Jerusalem will remain the united Israeli capital because we have no intention of dividing it. Even you no longer speak about dividing it. This is off the agenda. Therefore, I say, there are some 150,000 Palestinians in Jerusalem who have Jordanian passports, who are not Israeli citizens. They will want to vote for

the autonomy, and we have to find an answer to this problem at this stage, the interim stage. I am telling you, Mr. al-Husayni: Do not make demands that have no chance of being accepted. There could be only one result to such conditions—further postponement.

[Al-Husayni] I can say the same thing. Do not adopt decisions that are unacceptable to us and which, consequently, will lead to the same undesirable result about which we are talking. We are not saying that construction in Jerusalem should be stopped, but we say: It is essential for unilateral Israeli behavior to stop, such as changing the features of Jerusalem and transforming East Jerusalem from Palestinian territory with a Palestinian majority into an area with a Jewish majority. This unilateral change by Israel must be stopped. I am not saying life in Jerusalem should stop, but this change must cease and the Palestinians should have a say on everything taking place inside Jerusalem.

[Ganor] Mr. Peres, will you place Jerusalem at the top of the agenda of the discussions with Secretary of State Christopher next week?

[Peres] It is not at all on the agenda in Israel. For us it is an accomplished and permanent fact. We did not raise this issue. We acknowledge the problem of the Palestinian voters in Jerusalem. Jerusalem should be a city open to all religions. Any Muslim, Christian, or Jew should be allowed to reach the sites holy for him, pray to his God with the book of prayer of his preference, written in the language he chooses, in complete freedom. Therefore, the religious distinction of Jerusalem will be preserved, while the city's unity will be maintained even in the framework of the unofficial contacts between the Jews and the Arabs. The Jews in Jerusalem, who have been the majority for the past 100 years—we are not creating a majority now—should fully respect and understand the Arabs living there. We have no business in seeing the Arab residents of Jerusalem inferior to the Jews in any way.

[Ben-Menahem] Regarding Christopher's visit, Mr. Peres, will it not exclusively deal with solving the problem of Lebanon, thus leaving the issue of Jerusalem and the other issues of negotiations with the Palestinians unattended?

[Peres] There is no solution to be discussed at the moment regarding Lebanon. The problem there is stopping the katyusha fire, which is very limited.

[Ben-Menahem] Perhaps Christopher will deal exclusively with this?

[Peres] I hope that by the time he arrives, there will no longer be a need to deal with it. It may be solved before. We have no interest in dragging this out until he arrives. We would rather Mr. Christopher deal with the issue of peace between us and Syria, and the Palestinians. Neither Mr. Christopher, nor Mr. al-Husayni, nor anyone in Israel should be interested in having Hizballah dictate the peace process, or rather the process of stopping peace. The peace process is being conducted without Hizballah, despite it. I hope that Christopher will be able to devote most of his efforts to the peace process.

[Al-Husayni] I would like to say here that Jerusalem is the basic issue and, as far as we are concerned, the principal one. Jerusalem is the capital of the Palestinian state. It is our religious, national, and political capital. This situation must be established in any solution. I am not talking about dividing Jerusalem. It is possible to have a unified Jerusalem. Now Jerusalem is divided. If you go to the eastern part, you will see that it is under occupation, whereas the situation is different in the western part. We want a united Jerusalem, but inside it there should also be an Israeli capital and a Palestinian capital. This might take place in the future. But if the file of Jerusalem, in terms of changes on the ground, is not closed and if Israel does not cease its measures to transform East Jerusalem into a Jewish majority, be sure that these talks will not move one step. If the Israelis imagine that this issue is closed, then this is the major mistake that can derail the entire negotiating process.

[Ganor] Is this Mr. al-Husayni's condition, and will you raise the issue of Jerusalem in the talks with Mr. Christopher next week? No progress without solving the issue of Jerusalem?

[Al-Husayni] Without a halt to these Israeli measures in Jerusalem, there will be no progress.

[Ben-Menahem] And the Israeli consent to hand over Gaza and possibly Jericho, does this not represent a breakthrough in breaking the deadlock in the peace process?

[Al-Husayni] Breaking the deadlock requires two elements. The first is finding a new way. The other is addressing issues in a balanced way. For Israel to say right now that Jerusalem is the eternal capital and that this file is closed and will not be discussed, this is categorically rejected by us. We are ready to postpone Jerusalem's fate and its discussion until the final stage—and I am talking about all Jerusalem—but now Jerusalem must be addressed in a way that leaves the path open in the future to discuss Jerusalem's future.

[Ganor] Mr. Peres, is this a deadlock?

[Peres] I never rush to define situations. I listened very closely to Mr. al-Husayni. He said that, perhaps as we did with Egypt, we should reach an interim arrangement, a first arrangement that does not encompass everything. The first agreement really speaks about the idea of Gaza first, with additions, after a declaration of principles is made. Let us stay there. Mr. al-Husayni also understands that from the Palestinian point of view, at least, the issue of Jerusalem should be discussed when the permanent, final arrangement is discussed. At this time, in the framework of autonomy—which is not a Palestinian state or any state; an autonomy is not a state; it has its pros and cons—I believe that there is a very serious problem with Jerusalem, but it is the only one that

should be addressed in connection with the autonomy—the problem of the votes of the Arab residents of Jerusalem. This problem should be solved.

[Ben-Menahem] Mr. Peres, what about the problem of the closure and the new neighborhoods constructed in Jerusalem. This is bothering the Palestinians. What can be done about this?

[Peres] I understand the problem of the closure, but why was it imposed? The closure is not an end in itself. It was imposed in reaction to the knifings and murders. If we reach an agreement, there will be no more knifing attacks, nor closure. I believe it is in our interests as well to allow the residents to move freely. Let me assure you, Mr. al-Husayni, we have no business to inflict suffering upon the residents. We want the students to go to schools, the sick to hospitals, the people to their workplaces, and so on. I hope that when we really reach an understanding between us, the entire problem will be solved.

[Ben-Menahem] Does it mean that lifting the closure is conditional on reaching an agreement with the Palestinians, not before?

[Peres] It will be lifted when it is no longer needed. The closure is not very strict at this time. The military leadership is constantly seeking ways to make it easier for the people to move. Naturally, we also take security measures to prevent the previous state of affairs from recurring. The residents of Jerusalem were deprived of personal security. People were stabbed in the middle of the street in broad daylight. No government in the world could tolerate this.

[Al-Husayni] Mr. Peres, this closure is not a security closure. There is a difference between a security and political closure. A security closure can take place everywhere and at any time. This closure does not prevent a person who wants to stab someone from entering and crossing. One who wants to stab does not have to cross a checkpoint. He can enter from any other place. The difference between a political and military closure is that a military closure stipulates who is banned from entering because of certain traits, not who is allowed to enter. When you say that only this or that is allowed to enter, this is a political closure requiring a person to have a visa to enter Jerusalem. If, however, the closure is carried out as always when there is a security problem, then it is to prevent certain groups and persons from entering for certain reasons. The current closure is political. It results in supporting a specific political idea and destroying the economy of East Jerusalem, which totally depends on the area around it. If you are seeking security, that is your right, but it should not be at the expense of the Palestinian economic and social infrastructure.

[Peres, interrupting] I would not like mistrust to be stronger than reality. Seriously, there was no political plan to impose the closure. It was brought about by 15 consecutive stabbing incidents. The fact is that they stopped when the closure was imposed. It is not a political matter; it is strictly a matter of security. Since the closure was imposed, the government, the defense minister, and the Military Government have been looking for ways to ease it. Some 50,000 work permits have been issued, compared with the 120,000 before. We also know that in Jerusalem many pass without permits. We are not making passage so very difficult. After all, we have lived without the closure for 25 years. Did we wake up one morning and decided to change our policies? I am not saying that the closure does not have political results. I am saying we did not have political aims. The result provides security, and I would say that under different political conditions, it will not be needed.

[Ganor] Mr. al-Husayni, can the PLO guarantee the security of and control over the Gaza Strip if Israel withdraws from it on the basis of Mr. Peres' proposal?

[Al-Husayni] The PLO is able to guarantee and control security as long as there are clear political agreements. Then, we can actually control security. This happened in the past. I can mention the example of south Lebanon, but all this must occur through a clear political concept....

[Ben-Menahem, interrupting] Such as?

[Al-Husayni] Such as it should be clear that this is part of an ongoing and continuing process. For this reason, we say: Gaza and Jericho, so that the process will not be confined to the Gaza Strip alone, but be a step on all the fronts for achieving progress in this matter. It should be clear to all that pulling out from a certain area does not mean, in return, cutting off another area and not considering it part of the peace process.

[Peres] I welcome the remarks Mr. al-Husayni is making. One could think that we can never reach an agreement even in such a discussion. I would like to note that there are things on which we agree. We agree that the declaration of principles should cover all the territories, not just Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, and certainly not each of them separately. It should be a comprehensive declaration about the territory, which is a single unit. There are no disagreements on this. Also, once the declaration is made, we can start implementing it in Gaza—and I know the Palestinians are demanding it for Jericho. We have not yet decided on this, but we are aware of the demand. That is, an interim agreement in an interim agreement to exacerbate the process—to which we also both agree.

Furthermore, a distinction should be made between security and political measures. During the five years of autonomy—and it could be less—we agree that the security of the Palestinians will be in Palestinian hands, while the security of Israel and Israelis should remain in Israel's hands. This is yet another point of agreement. I believe that we should leave the points on which we will not reach an agreement, move forward, and arrive at the things in agreement. We have no other choice. We must make progress in stages due to the problems created by history and wars and also due to very complicated geography. There is not much room for maneuvering.

We are not the USSR or the United States. This is a very narrow strip of land, and two peoples live here, both scattered all over. It is quite difficult, and I am sure Mr. al-Husayni will also not take it lightly. Let us move, stage by stage, out of the mess we are in.

[Ganor] What is the next stage for the building of confidence between the two sides?

[Peres] I will enumerate the stages: One, we should reach a declaration of principles; it can be made of skim milk, not cream. It does not have to include everything. We should take pens and a calendar into our hands; sign that which is agreed, and set a later date for the issues in disagreement. Two, let us go for the Gaza First concept, plus something. Three, we should hand over to the Palestinians the powers in every field they would be willing to assume. Four, we should start handling the economic issues of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza to help the residents attain economic, not just political, control, and to set up institutions, factories, and infrastructure.

I do not believe that the economic problems of either the Jews or the Arabs can be solved through national solutions. There must be a regional solution. The talk of Israeli imperialism is nonsense. In today's economic world there is no hegemony; there is competition. Japan has an enormous economy not because it controls anything, but because it competes well. Competition should be held across open borders. We have to solve the water problem; we must develop tourism; we have to set up an infrastructure of roads for people to be able to move. If Mr. al-Husayni allows me, there is one place in the world that closely resembles the Gaza Strip—Singapore. It is a small, densely populated country in which the people lived in poverty in shacks. A good government turned it to a jewel without increasing territory or reducing the population, but because the right regime took over there. Today, it is one of the richest countries in the world. My vision of Gaza is Singapore. We can do it there. They say these are Chinese, and those are Arabs—I see no difference. Every nation can make economic progress provided it adopts the right economic doctrine.

[Ganor] Mr. al-Husayni, Mr. Peres has presented different stages for mutual confidence-building between the Israelis and the Palestinians. What is your comment?

[Al-Husayni] We might have some agreement on some of the points he mentioned, but not total agreement. The declaration of principles should address all the territory as one. Here, I cannot exclude Jerusalem from this. There must be a Jerusalem issue and how to address it at this stage. The other point relates to security, the issue of Palestinian security. Anything that concerns military positions and so forth is treated differently in terms of security, but the law prevailing in this area is one. It is inconceivable to deal on the basis of Israeli and Palestinian laws. The area that will be under Palestinian charge will be totally and legally under Palestinian charge and under one law. [passage omitted]

Two Wounded in Bethlehem Grenade Attack

TA3007114893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] Two Arabs were slightly wounded in Bethlehem in an explosion of a hand grenade thrown into a shop near the Bayt Jala junction. The shop was damaged in the explosion. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the security forces sealed off the area. The police are investigating whether the attack was perpetrated against the background of suspected collaboration with the authorities, or whether it was carried out by settlers.

Tzomet Submits No-Confidence Motion

TA2907203493 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Tzomet today submitted a motion of no confidence in the government over what it termed the fact that ministers against whom a criminal investigation is in progress remain in the cabinet. Tzomet sharply protests the vote on the lifting of Knesset Member Pinhasi's immunity and notes a direct link between that vote and the state of the government, which has lost the Arab parties' support. The government has paid SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] a bribe, Tzomet says. [passage omitted]

The Knesset vote on the Pinhasi issue elicited a caustic reaction from Justice Minister David Liba'i, who said that the Knesset has been amazingly oblivious of the principle of equality in the eyes of the law, and that the decision reeks of political decay. [passage omitted]

Parties Agree on Need for 'Democratic, Modern' Election Law

JN2907075093 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29-30 Jul 93 p 1

[By Ayman al-Safadi]

[Text] Amman—The agreement reached Tuesday by 15 political parties on the need for "more democratic and modern," Election Law reflected a consensus on demanding fundamental amendments to the legislation but did little to solve the controversy over when and how the changes should be introduced.

Just as Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali gave the strongest indication that his government is moving towards changing the legislation, the country's major political parties sent him a message saying that they agree the law should be reconsidered.

But agreeing on the need for change is the only positive response Dr. al-Majali received from opponents of amendments, including signatories to the letter.

In the letter, sent to Dr. al-Majali Tuesday, the political parties said the law "requires reconsideration" through a national dialogue but stressed that no changes should be introduced without the approval of Parliament.

The changes proposed in the letter include lowering the voting age from 19 to 18, increasing the number of seats at the Lower House, cancelling the quota system for minorities and "redrawing the voting constituencies to ensure equality among all citizens."

The parties also asked for facilitating the voting process, allowing more time for election campaign, holding the ballots under the supervision of judicial committees and cancelling Item E of Article 18 of the law, which bans members of illegal political parties from contesting the ballots.

By pointing to the need for these changes in the law and insisting on a through national dialogue before introducing them, opponents of change appear to be playing for time. They aim to prove that there is little time left for discussing the changes if the elections are to be held within their constitutional time.

And by saying that no amendments should be adopted without the agreement of the House, they are calling for holding the coming ballots under the current law, leaving it to the next Parliament to debate the changes.

"Opponents of the change who signed the letter are betting that time is running out," Muhammad al-Shuraydah, spokesman for the centrist al-'Ahd Party, told the JORDAN TIMES Wednesday.

Parties opposed to the change indirectly agree.

"There is only time to mess with the law. You cannot thoroughly assess the changes or have a comprehensive dialogue before the elections are held," said Muslim Brotherhood deputy and leading member of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) Hammam Sa'id.

Even though both al-'Ahd and the IAF signed the letter, which was drafted after a meeting organised by the Arab Organisation for Human Rights Jordan chapter last week, the two parties differ on the mechanism for the change and who is constitutionally entitled to change the law.

Al-'Ahd believes that there is enough time for affecting the agreed-upon changes before November, when the ballots are expected to be held, and that the government has the constitutional right to unilaterally amend the law while the IAF says any change outside Parliament is unconstitutional.

What the two sides agree on however is that Dr. al-Majali's statement to al-Salt notables Tuesday that the Election Law "has many gaps in it" is a clear sign that the change is imminent.

In addition to referring to loopholes in the law, Dr. al-Majali said the national dialogue which His Majesty King Husayn has called for has been going on in the media. In an interview with the London-based Arabic daily AL-HAYAT, published Wednesday, King Husayn said the issue of amending the law would be presented to the people "and the suitable decision which will serve democracy will" be taken.

"... before I left Jordan (for London on July 9) I left people the opportunity to discuss the issue among themselves, and when I return (to Jordan) I will handle the subject as necessary and a date for the elections would be decided and announced," the King said.

Dr. Sa'id said the dialogue taking place in the press is not the right forum for debating the law.

"I am not aware of any formal dialogue on the subject, unless one is taking place behind closed doors," he said.

King Husayn has said that the dialogue for amending the law would be similar to the one held when the National Charter was adopted in 1990.

"The government is just continuing its policy of confusing the people and issuing vague statements," said Dr. Sa'id, urging the government to announce a "final and defined position on (the law) and as soon as possible," as demanded by the letter.

Dr. al-Majali said that no one should object to the change in the law if it aims at ensuring democratic gains, but the IAF believes that "undermining the authority of the House will only hurt democracy."

"We insist that no changes are introduced without the approval of the House. Any other mechanism will be a flagrant infringement on the legislature even if it produces what we require," said Dr. Sa'id.

Any changes in the law, however, are expected to include amendments that the IAF opposes, mainly introducing the one-person- one-vote formula which many observers believe would weaken large and well-organised political groups.

Under the current law, voters have as many votes as the number of seats allocated for their constituencies and that allowed large groups, especially the Brotherhood, which was the only party that contested the 1989 elections under party lists, to strike alliance with independent and tribal candidates.

Other signatories to the letter sent to Dr. al-Majali included:

The Jordanian Socialist Arab Ba'th Party, the Popular Unity Party, the Arab Democratic Party, the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party, the Democratic Arab Islamist Movement Party, the Freedom Party, the Jordanian People Democratic Party, al-Mustaqbal Party, the Jordanian National Alliance Party, the Jordanian Democratic Progressive Party, the Justice and Progress Party and the Democratic Arab Unionist Party.

Interior Ministry Appoints New Governors

JN2907080093 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29-30 Jul 93 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The Interior Ministry Wednesday announced a reshuffle of some governorships and the appointment of new governors and district governors in various regions of the country.

A statement quoted by Petra said a Royal decree has approved a decision by Interior Minister Salamah Hammad to appoint the following persons as governors at the Ministry of Interior: 'Abd-al- Qadir 'Id al-Habahibah, Misleh al-Tarawinah, Khalaf Mahasinah, Ahmad al-Lawzi, Qaftan al-Majali and Muhammad al-Shawabikah.

Mr. al-Shawabikah was seconded to temporarily serve as an advisor at the Prime Ministry.

Tal'at al-Nawayisah, the governor of Zarqa, has been appointed governor of Amman to succeed 'Isa al-'Umari who was retired last week.

Muslih al-Tarawinah was appointed as governor of Zarqa, Khalaf Mahasinah is governor of al-Karak, Ahmad al-Lawzi governor of al- Tafilahand Qaftan al-Majali governor of al-Mafraq.

The list also contains the names of district governors posted to new areas.

Later at a meeting following the swearning in ceremony at the Royal Court, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the Regent, urged the newly-appointed governors to seek the path of integrity and neutrality in dealing with various issues and to serve in an exemplary manner trying to ensure food and security for the community.

The regent called on the officials to provide oppprtunities for open and responsible discussions with the members of the public, noting that respect for government can only be won through the credibility of its officials.

Urging them to interact with the local community, the Regent said the governor's home should be home to all members of the community and governors should act in a manner reflecting His Majesty King Husayn's confidence in them.

Prince Hasan cautioned the governors to rely on accurate information and to define priorities in public service.

He said they ought to follow up on the issues of concern to the community searching for the actual needs of people.

The swearing-in ceremony was attended by Prime Minister 'Abd-al- Salam al-Majali, Interior Minister Salamah Hammad and other senior officials.

Need for Better Ties With Oman, Gulf States Seen

JN2907174993 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 29 Jul 93 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "Improvement of Jordanian-Gulf Relations"]

[Text] While reviewing the strong and developed relations between Jordan and the Sultanate of Oman, the Omani ambassador to the Hashemite Court noted that Jordanian-Gulf relations have improved, although slowly.

This remark by the ambassador of His Majesty Sultan Qabus is correct. Jordan, under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn, has always been eager to have the best fraternal relations with the Gulf states, with whom Jordan has something deeper and more lasting than mere diplomatic relations. The dossier of Jordanian-Gulf relations shows Jordan has extended to its brothers all possible support and assistance in all fields, as much as it could.

Jordan was grateful and appreciative of all forms of support and assistance extended to it by the Gulf states. Jordan considered this aid as generous support of the Jordanian position and role as it faced hostile designs, and for security and stability in the region.

When the crisis, dubbed the Gulf crisis—which Jordan believes has exhausted its objectives and reasons—erupted, Jordanian leadership was eager to continue relations and contacts with the sisterly Gulf states in order to discuss ways of containing the dangerous consequences of that crisis and to remove the reasons that led to it. Things went on as they did, but Jordan has not stopped contacts with its brothers.

Although there is no room here to review the experiment and the lessons learned from it, it is possible to express

the remaining and unwavering confidence and hope in the future of this nation and the unity of its sons, despite the disasters it passed through, and through which we are living now. Furthermore, these disasters and bitter experiences are the strongest reasons and motives for reviving the joint Arab action and the pan-Arab and Islamic links, and for directing the huge resources of our nation to the welfare, security, and strength of the sons of our nation.

The excellent relations between Jordan and the Sultanate of Oman can be a model of relations among all Arab brothers. On the other hand, these relations show that Jordan has a principled readiness to develop relations with all brothers, including, and probably first among them, the Arabian Gulf states.

Finally, we appreciate the Omani ambassador's call to the Gulf states to look to Jordan as the nearest country to them, which is something that emphasizes the need to develop the Jordanian-Gulf relations for strategic considerations.

Palestinian Said To Return 'Willingly' to West Bank

JN3007080693 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 30 Jul 93 p 18

[Text] Amman, PETRA—The information minister has stated the following:

Arab and foreign newspapers have continued to report that the Jordanian Government has handed over Muhammad Salah al-Masri to the Israeli authorities. This report is completely fabricated, false, and baseless. Muhammad Salah al-Masri returned to the West Bank willingly and without any coercion or pressure whatsoever.

Minister Says Christopher Arranging Cease-Fire

NC2907135193 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Text] Information Minister Michel Samahah has told REUTER that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher telephoned Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and advised him that he is working to arrange a cease-fire early this evening.

However, an Israeli military spokesman stated that the Israeli Army has not received orders to effect a cease-fire. He stressed that the army will continue its military operations in south Lebanon.

U.S. Envoy Meets al-Hirawi, Urges End to Violence

NC2907155493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1538 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi met this afternoon with U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker, who described the situation as dangerous and called for halting the wave of violence, stopping the Israeli military operations, and ending Hizballah attacks. Expressing dismay at acts against civilians, Crocker called for stopping such acts and emphasized that the refugees who have fled their homes must be able to return to their villages. He reiterated his country's support for Lebanese independence and sovereignty.

Crocker also visited Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri for almost an hour, but made no statement afterward.

Russian Envoy Condemns Extremist Activity

NC3007100493 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi received this morning at Ba'abda Palace Viktor Posuvalyuk, the Russian Government's envoy, accompanied by Russian Ambassador to Lebanon Gennadiy Ilichev. After the meeting, the Russian envoy announced his country's concern about events in southern Lebanon. He affirmed that his country condemns the actions of extremists and disapproves of extremism, fanaticism, and terrorism. He believes that Israel carried out its military operations in response to these actions.

The Russian envoy said:

[Begin recording] Upon the arrival of a Russian envoy to Lebanon we wanted to show our great interest in Lebanon, the situation in the country, and the traditional bilateral relations that have always linked our two countries. We also hope that our relations will be fruitful and strong in the future.

Of course, regarding the recent events, I could say that Russia is deeply concerned about what is happening now in southern Lebanon, especially since there are people dying. We express our sadness and condolences on this occasion. We are deeply concerned about the expansion of these events. I say very frankly that Russia does not only disapprove of but also condemns the actions of extremists and in general condemns fanaticism, extremism, provocative acts, and terrorism. This must be made clear on this occasion. We realize that Israel has carried out the recent actions in southern Lebanon in response to these extremist acts, which we repeat that we condemn. [end recording]

Dallul Tours Army Position, Views Shelled Villages

NC3007132193 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1150 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] Before leaving for Damascus today, Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul toured some villages in western al-Biqa' that were the target of Israeli attacks. During his tour, he said that the Israeli scheme is to destroy the homeland and stability. Our correspondent in western al-Biqa' sent us this dispatch on Dallul's tour:

[Begin recording] While Israeli air raids and artillery bombardment continued on the front line villages, Defense Minister Dallul toured the area this afternoon and inspected the Lebanese Army positions in western al-Biqa'. Dallul said: The army will hold on to its positions until the end no matter what the consequences. He noted that the army is helping and encouraging the citizens to stay in their homes so that the Israeli scheme to destroy the peace process will not succeed. He said: I assert that the army, as you know it, will adhere to its national duties and no single person has deserted his post since the Israeli acts of aggression began, which is a source of pride.

Dallul said: We have no objection to a cease-fire because we are defending ourselves. Israel, however, seems intent on completing its plan of forcing the people out of their homes and creating a rift between the authority and the people and between the authority and certain political trends, and on foiling all plans for reconstruction and development. I believe, Dallul said, that Israel will not achieve its goal, adding that if Israel persists in its aggressive actions, the negotiations will be in danger. If Israel continues to occupy our land, we will not allow ourselves to prevent any party from struggling against this occupation. He said: We will not be a policeman for the occupation and our goal is to remove it. If the occupation ends, we pledge that no military operations will take place against Israel from Lebanese territory and no one will be allowed to carry arms except the army and legitimate authorities. However, as long as the occupation continues it is treasonous to prevent any person or party from struggling against the occupation. Dallul stressed that Lebanon will not sign a separate agreement, saying it is impossible because we will pave the way for a civil war in Lebanon. [end recording]

Newspaper: Hizballah To Blame for Israeli Operation

PM2907153293 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Jul 93 p 11

['Abd-al-Rahman al-Rashid article: "Hizballah Before Israel"]

[Text] When Lebanon refused to receive the Palestinian deportees from their territory in Palestine, it was said that the Beirut government had begun to act as a state and that it had become strong enough to say "no," even if the issue is popular and has a national dimension.

Lebanon cannot continue to be the region's dump into which its problems are thrown. Everyone knows that Lebanon lost many precious years, especially during the Arab economic resurgence period from the mid-1970's to the mid-1980's. It lost the formula of political and social coexistence. It lost many of its people. So why should Lebanon bear the region's sins and misdeeds?

This is why when all [the militias] were disarmed and the PLO and its factions shackled, Lebanon tried to recover its health. And indeed it recovered some of it. Despite this political maturity, it was clear that there was a shortcoming when it left Hizballah armed. It was clear that Hizballah was going to use its guns and implicate Lebanon in a battle later. It is the only militia which has been left to carry and stockpile its arms officially. It was certain that a security setback would happen as a result of Hizballah's mentality and arms.

Hizballah wanted to score a victory for itself by firing two or three rockets on Israel's northern settlements. It did so to scratch Israel—but it is a scratch of no value, militarily or politically—and at the same time bring the knife back up to Lebanon's throat.

Hizballah's attack on the Israelis was a free invitation for the Israelis, just as a Palestinian faction invited them in 1982 after the attempt to assassinate their ambassador in London. In that operation Lebanon was fragmented and the PLO destroyed politically. The PLO suffered a political blow from which it still has not recovered. As for the Israeli ambassador, he escaped the attempt on his life.

Even when the Israelis invaded Lebanon from the south to the north in that famous summer, it was not exposed to so much rage as this time. In that year Lebanon was already in the seventh year of the [civil] war, so an Israeli operation would not have done much harm, as there were already scores of operations in its arena in which local and foreign parties were involved. But Israel's latest attack on southern Lebanon has a bigger impact, because the country started to enjoy peace just three years ago.

Even if we denounce the Israeli operation, Hizballah's action is another proof of the necessity to disarm it, whatever the justifications of the parties supporting this organization. This is because Lebanon will become a passageway for Israeli tanks in order to train on its territory if the organization continue to be armed. In fact Hizballah is the one to blame for Israel's occupation of the southern strip of Lebanon. It gave them the justification time after time for seizing it, depopulating it, and plundering its wealth. So disarming Hizballah is more important than denouncing the Israeli operation, which would not have happened in these conditions had it not been for Hizballah's invitation to it.

Fadlallah Says Europe, U.S. Behind Israeli Action

NC3007145293 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has condemned the barbaric mad war that the Zionist enemy is waging against the civilian population in south Lebanon and western al-Biqa'. In his Friday sermon today, he held the United States responsible for this war being waged by the enemy, because it supports him militarily and politically. He noted that the mujahidin use of rockets was a reaction to this war that the enemy is waging against civilians. He cautioned against the Zionist declared policy of evicting the people to create problems. He warned against confusing the criminal and the victim. The policy of the arrogant powers is trying to suggest to the people that what the enemy is doing is a reaction to the mujahidin action and that had they not fought Israel, it would not have embarked on this action.

Fadlallah said that the current events are a U.S. message sent to discipline those who have not yet been disciplined. He said that south Lebanon is facing a world war behind an Israeli facade. He said that America and Europe are behind this war. The war, he said, is a U.S. message to Lebanon to avoid integration with Syria in the future. It is also a message to Syria to put aside its misgivings in the negotiations. It is a warm message to Israel to play a security role in Lebanon so that if reconciliation is reached, it will be in line with the 17 May agreement. It is a message to the mujahidin to create a rift between them and the people and army. It is a message to the army that it has nothing to do with these events at a time when the army sees that Israel is invading the homeland that it swore to defend. He said that Israel is trying to push the army to confront the mujahidin and create a civil war between the army and the resistance that might be more serious than their confrontation with Israel.

Fadlallah denounced the donation by the U.S. ambassador to Lebanon and urged the government to reject it and not buy with it the blood of martyrs and refugees. He strongly blamed Western silence and the Arab League's long slumber and defeatism.

Says Political Defeat Can Be Prevented

NC2907171593 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Text] Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has stated that the U.S.-Israeli scheme for south Lebanon has met with grievous failure, at least at this stage, as he put it.

Fadlallah called for confronting the events in the south with steadfastness and endurance, and added: We might not be able to achieve military victory but we can prevent a Lebanese political defeat and inflict a certain degree of defeat on the Israeli scheme.

Nasrallah: Katyushas Stop When Israel Stops

NC3007135593 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1315 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah has made the following statement: Hizballah, which has chosen resistance against the occupier Israeli enemy, like free people anywhere, has vowed not to relinquish its freedom and its people's dignity or abandon its sanctities and land. It has chosen to defend all oppressed people to embody the most basic human rights cherished by all countries of the world. The Islamic Resistance has fought the Zionist enemy face to face, striking painfully at him. The Resistance cannot sit and look at Israeli aircraft, rockets, and artillery striking at our civilian population in our steadfast villages. After the enemy targets villages and civilians, the Islamic Resistance fires rockets at settlements in occupied north Palestine according to the Koran verse: "If then any one transgresses the prohibition against you, transgress ye likewise against him."

Proceeding from this premise, we declare to the local and world public that firing rockets at occupied north Palestine can only be stopped after permanent and total abstention from aggression against villages and civilians in Jabal 'Amil and western al-Biqa' and a stop to the Israeli air, land, and sea assaults on all Lebanese territories.

O our kinfolk in Lebanon, our dear kinfolk in Jabal 'Amil and western al-Biqa': O sons of the patient villages, you have been patient at the harm done to you: O followers of Husayn [grandson of prophet Muhmmmad] in the ranks of the Islamic and national resistance: O brother soldiers and officers in the Lebanese army defending the soil of the homeland: You are required today to stand united and close ranks against these bestial Israeli assaults and this Zionist intransigence to repulse his aggression and foil all his schemes so that Lebanon may emerge free and proud and its people may emerge brave with heads held high.

Hizballah Radio Views U.S. Cease-Fire Proposal

NC2907130093 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1235 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Text] AFP, citing a government source, reports that the United States has told Lebanese officials that the Rabin government will cease fire in Lebanon—where Zionist aggression has been going on for five days—at 1800 tonight. The source pointed out that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher conveyed a message in a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri. The same source added that U.S. Ambassador in Beirut Ryan Crocker today met President Ilyas al-Hirawi in the presence of Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and informed him of the Rabin government's decision to hold fire from 1800 tonight.

Government sources said the cease-fire is part of a U.S. draft proposal to halt all Zionist military operations and active Syrian involvement to calm the situation. The U.S. draft proposal requires the Arab parties concerned with the settlement process to emphasize their determination to attend the 11th round of the peace talks, the date of which has yet to be set.

Says Israeli Invasion Plausible

NC3007073193 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] For the sixth consecutive day the Zionist military machine has continued its savage attacks against Lebanon, spreading death and destruction everywhere. Meanwhile, military reinforcements have continued to flow into the occupied part of the south. If political efforts to stop this aggression fail, the possibility of a new Israeli military invasion becomes very plausible to enlarge the scope of the occupied areas after Israel has worked for five days to empty the liberated southern areas of their inhabitants.

However, military sources expect that any Israeli military advance of this kind will not be easy because the Islamic Resistance has adopted the necessary measures to confront such an expansion.

Jihad Group Issues 'Final Warning' to U.S.

NC3007161093 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1601 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] The pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad Organization of Palestine has announced that it is issuing a final warning to the United States with a deadline expiring on the night of this Sunday [1 August]. Washington, the group said, should work for the end of the Israeli military operations in south Lebanon, or else the Islamic Jihad Organization will strike at a number of U.S. targets in the Middle East. The organization issued a statement saying that this is the final warning for the U.S. Satan.

Resistance Leaders Call For Unified Stand on Talks

NC3007110393 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1000 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] The leadership of the Palestinian Resistance in the south believes that the objective of the Israeli aggressive actions is to empty the area of its residents and to destroy it so that the people cannot return. The leadership said in a statement it issued today that Israel's aspirations at the negotiations are to sign a new agreement similar to the 17 May Agreement in light of the new balance of power.

The leadership called for a Palestinian-Lebanese-Syrian alliance to confront Israel and the U.S. administration, both of which are working to turn the Arab region into a farm where they can implement their projects. It also called on the countries participating in the talks to take a united stand on the continuation of these talks.

PLO Envoy on Palestinian Casualties, Peace Talks

NC2907163593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Text] Beirut, 29 Jul (MENA)—PLO representative in Beirut Shafiq al-Hut has stated that during the Israeli acts of aggression against the Palestinian camps in south and north Lebanon in the past four days, more than 25 Palestinians were killed and 50 others injured. He said that approximately 12 Palestinians were killed in the al-Baddawi camp in north Lebanon. He noted that between 50,000 and 60,000 Palestinians have abandoned their camps.

In a statement to MENA, al-Hut condemned the Israeli aggression, saying that Israel has expanded its offensive in a way that outweighs the pretexts it gave for the aggression. He wondered why Israel struck at demilitarized camps, noting that the destruction has affected all Palestinian camps which house between 350,000 and 400,000 Palestinians living in Lebanon.

On the possibility of suspending or boycotting the peace talks in light of the Israeli aggression, al-Hut said that the decision to suspend or boycott the talks is up to the cordon states and no one by himself can decide it. He expected the foreign ministers of the cordon states to meet at the sidelines of the Arab foreign ministers meeting scheduled to begin in Damascus tomorrow. He stressed that the PLO will support any position the Lebanese Government may adopt to confront the Israeli aggression.

More IDF Reinforcements Cross Border Into South

Tanks Enter Security Zone

TA2907152093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is continuing to beef up its deployment in Lebanon, and at this time, additional IDF forces are moving northward. Our correspondents in the north Yo'av Aviv and Karmela Menashe report that columns of tanks, artillery, and armored personnel carriers are on their way to Lebanon, crossing the international border and entering the security zone.

Several katyusha rockets landed in the Galilee panhandle and western Galilee this afternoon. They caused no injuries or damage.

Hizballah Radio Notes New Deployments

NC2907154793 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1530 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Text] It has been learned from security sources that the Zionist entity today sent artillery reinforcements to the occupied Lebanese area. Columns of tanks were spotted near the northern borders. Twenty-five artillery pieces were sent to Lebanon and were deployed in Marj 'Uyun, the command headquarters of the occupation troops. The same sources added that Israel has amassed 70 tanks and armored vehicles at the occupied areas opposite al-Nabatiyah region.

Unidentified Submarines Reported Off North Coast

NC2907174493 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Text] The continuing escalation of the situation in the south was coupled with naval movements off north Lebanon. Unidentified submarines have been spotted cruising the Lebanese coast off Tripoli and al-Barid. The submarines did not initiate any military activity but only approached the shore.

IDF Denies Claim on Number of Villages Destroyed

TA2907211993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2100 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] denies absolutely the statement by the Lebanese Army spokesman according to which 75 villages have so far been destroyed in Operation Accountability. The IDF spokesman wished to clarify that the operation in south Lebanon is aimed only at terrorist targets, including buildings situated in villages or on their outskirts. The spokesman added that the shelling came only after the villagers had received an early warning to leave their homes.

Media Report Statistics on Dead, Injured, Damages

RFL: 21 Killed 29 Jul

NC2907192193 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Text] According to security sources, Lebanese casualties from today's Israeli military operations totaled 21 dead and 56 injured. The casualty toll since Sunday [25 July] is 111 dead and 406 injured.

UNIFIL Updates Casualty Toll

TA3007092193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0830 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] sources counted the number of those killed and wounded in Lebanon to date. UNIFIL's data indicate that so far 120

were killed and 500 wounded by the Air Force's bombings. Of these figures, 37 dead and 192 wounded people were in the UNIFIL-controlled area.

State Radio Updates Situation

NC3007065993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Excerpts] The south has become a scorched earth, almost deserted by most of its residents. The number of refugees has exceeded 500,000 people, the number of martyrs has reached more than 115, and the number of wounded is in the hundreds. Despite many reports yesterday about an Israeli cease-fire, Israel continued to pour artillery and air fire against villages in various sectors from al-Naqurah to western al-Biqa'. Israel also sent troop and tank reinforcements to the south. [passage omitted]

NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondents in the south have reported that Israeli raids have continued, albeit with less intensity, together with fierce artillery shelling directed at concentrations of people fleeing from the inferno of Israeli fire.

Security sources said that enemy forces yesterday carried out 77 raids, including 35 against Tyre and the Tyre district villages. A UN Interim Force in Lebanon source said that since the start of the attacks last Sunday [25 July] Israel has fired about 22,000 artillery rounds and 1,000 air-to-surface missiles against villages in the south. This is in addition to shells fired at western al-Biqa'. The resistance retaliated against the Israeli escalation by firing 35 rockets against Galilee which, according to Israeli statements, left two people wounded. Israeli army reports yesterday indicated that more than 210 Katyusha rockets have fallen in northern Israel and the occupied border strip since Sunday.

Yakan on Role, Aims of Islamic Group

PM2607130093 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 23 Jul 93 pp 18-19

[Interview with Deputy Fathi Yakan, secretary general of the Islamic Group, by Nilli al-Hulw in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Hulw] Is the Islamic Group's participation in the Chamber of Deputies a consolidation of your political position on the ground?

[Yakan] Without doubt, participation in the Lebanese legislature opens the door for us to engage in the political game and, hence, to present our ideas through the legislature by discussing proposed laws and participating in drawing up the country's policy. This in itself is a consolidation of the political action we are carrying out.

[Al-Hulw] Is this your aim behind participation in the chamber?

[Yakan] Without doubt the aim of our participation in the chamber is to reform the political system. The formula on which Lebanon was built in 1943 is unjust and led Lebanon to the sinister civil war. True, there was another foreign background, but this formula made the Lebanese structure weak, fragile, and vulnerable to infiltration by the conflicting political forces in the region. Thus our program aims to reexamine the political system so that it will be a modern system based, of course, on justice, equality, and equal opportunity for all, thus eliminating the class system.

Our aim is to turn Lebanon and the political system from a state of mafias and a state inherited by prominent families to a state whose positions of responsibility are run by competent and efficient people, even if they are from among ordinary citizens. The aim is to ensure that political decisionmaking is not monopolized by the higher classes and the known traditional leaderships. [passage omitted]

[Al-Hulw] But people in general accuse you of Islamic fanaticism. If you are asked to describe the Islamic Group in a few words, what do you say?

[Yakan] First of all, we appreciate the position of those who do not know us, but we ask them to know us closely. They are excused, because present waves of terrorism in some Arab and Islamic states give people the wrong impression, leading them to believe that every Islamic movement must be a terrorist movement, especially in view of what is happening in Egypt. We have denounced what is happening in Egypt and believe that it does not represent the nobility of Islam. I mean killing tourists, harming the innocent, attacking hotels, carrying out bombings, and so on. We believe this has nothing to do with Islam, and Islam rejects it completely. So many people do not know us, because they do not know the truth about us. We are a group whose principles are derived from Islam, which does not call for terrorism and violence. [passage omitted]

[Al-Hulw] Is your ideological aim eventually to set up an Islamic state in Lebanon?

[Yakan] We are actually logical in our proposals. A country that understands Islam and believes in it as an ideology, legislation, system, and so on can apply this model. A country that is not convinced of it cannot, and we cannot convince it against its will. Lebanon's situation is difficult, because not only Muslims live in Lebanon. It is not our nature to apply Islam by force, whatever the circumstances. There are 17 sects in Lebanon, and as we do not accept that others should rule us according to their beliefs, we cannot impose our opinion on anyone. [passage omitted]

[Al-Hulw] What is your relationship with the Muslim Brotherhood?

[Yakan] We coordinate with the Muslim Brotherhood, and their books are adopted theoretically and ideologically. They are written by a group of scholars. We

coordinate with Shiite ulema in their conferences. We also coordinate with salafi [reformist] ulema and attend their conferences. We do not miss any chance for coordination, but in the end the decision is ours. [passage omitted]

[Al-Hulw] What is your relationship with Hizballah?

[Yakan] There is coordination between us and all Islamic groups, whether on the Sunni scene or the Shiite scene. Our relations with Hizballah are relations of brotherhood, friendship, and coordination over what we agree on. We excuse one another for what we do not agree on. [passage omitted]

[Al-Hulw] The question being asked is: Did those who carried out the al-Balamand operation not include any persons from the Islamic Group?

[Yakan] Not a single one. Proof of this is that all the Islamic Group elements interrogated have been released. The security and judicial organs were very thorough. They released them only after ascertaining that the Islamic Group has nothing to do with this issue. [passage omitted]

[Al-Hulw] You said that you had a presence in the south as a resistance. Does this presence still exist, given that we have heard nothing about it?

[Yakan] Yes, we have a presence in the south—a resistance presence which has been suspended for some time for technical and geographical reasons until...but we believe that we were in the forefront of the fighters and the first martyr was from among us, that is Martyr Jamal al-Habbal of the "al-Fajr Forces."

[Al-Hulw] Do you demand the change of the government?

[Yakan] By God, as far as we are concerned, what is important is not changing individuals, but the government's policy. Changing individuals will keep the situation as it stands. Maybe this government, with a certain policy, mentality, and dynamism, does not need to be changed.

Changing the government is not the problem at present. The problem lies in the Middle East issue, which is weighing heavily on Lebanon, Syria, and the region. The region cannot breathe or make a move, and the big powers are imposing on it what they want to impose on it. That is why this government is seeking to achieve economic prosperity. But prosperity needs money and loans from international banks, which impose the condition that there be a peace agreement between Lebanon and Israel. So the government's position is linked to a large extent to its success or failure in the Middle East issue. Thus we cannot believe that the government can do everything. There are things which it can do and other things it cannot do, just like any of the fraternal Arab countries, that is the cordon states.

[Al-Hulw] How do you view developments in the situation in the Middle East?

[Yakan] First, we want to record mainly our rejection of the achievement of any peace or normalization with Israel, because this will be against Lebanon and not in its interests or the Arabs' interests on all levels, including the economic level. Israel can achieve through peace what it cannot achieve through war. Israel is already invading our markets with its agricultural products before we achieve peace with it. So what will be the situation if peace is established with it? Economic prosperity could occur then, but it will not be Lebanese prosperity, but Zionist prosperity. Let alone its practices in Lebanon. We saw how it is dealing with the first Arab state which established peace with it under the Camp David accords. It has not even spared it its spies. It has sent several Israeli spies to infiltrate the Egyptian arena. I understand that when an honorable agreement is concluded between two states, there is no need for espionage and stabs in the back. Israel cannot be trusted and has limitless ambitions, and no peace can be established with it.

[Al-Hulw] If you are completely rejecting any peace or normalization with Israel, what can be done? Is the situation in the Middle East expected to remain as it stands?

[Yakan] We believe that Israel is the aggressor and that it unjustly and oppressively moved hundreds of thousands of Palestinians out of their territory. We also believe that what was taken by force can only be regained by force. This is why the strategy for dealing with Israel is based on the jihad against this enemy who occupied my territory and started the occupation. He fought and slaughtered me first.

[Al-Hulw] Nearly all the Arab brothers are agreed on normalization.

[Yakan] Syria is still maintaining its solid and willful position, that is it will not sign any bilateral agreements before Israel's withdrawal from the other Arab territories. This is why the U.S. Senate sent it a message threatening it.

[Al-Hulw] What will your position be if the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies—of which you are a member—agrees to establish peace with Israel?

[Yakan] It will not agree, God willing! The recent statement issued against the United States and the Senate is clear evidence of changes in the Chamber of Deputies.

[Al-Hulw] What is your relationship with Syria, given that you are in some way an extension of the Muslim Brotherhood?

[Yakan] It is a normal relationship. There was a very good meeting with it last week, and there is always coordination with it. We could differ over certain matters, as is the case in any society and even inside the one home. But there is no disagreement over general policy.

Iran's Velayati Arrives in Damascus 29 Jul

Received by al-Shar'

JN2907155393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Text] Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI), arrived in Damascus this evening on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was welcomed at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', senior Foreign Ministry officials, the Iranian ambassador in Damascus, and the embassy staff.

Dr. Velayati made a statement to a SANA correspondent in which he said: I am carrying a message for President Hafiz al-Asad from his brother IRI President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He added: I will hold talks with Faruq al-Shar' and Syrian officials. Among the important topics that we will discuss is the brutal Israeli aggression against Lebanon. He continued: Hizballah, the Lebanese people, and the Lebanese Government are defending Lebanon's territorial integrity, national unity, and rights. Those who support Israel, or the parties that protect and support Israel and encourage it to commit aggression, must be identified in order to stop their encouragement of it and to prevent the continuation of this aggression.

Conveys Hashemi-Rafsanjani Message

JN2907203293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Text] At 2030 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Iranian ambassador in Damascus.

Dr. Velayati conveyed to the president a message from Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

The talks, during the meeting, dealt with the situation in Lebanon in light of the recent developments, bilateral relations, and issues of mutual interest.

Notes Lebanese 'Right' To Self-Defense

LD2907210593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Text] On his arrival in Damascus Thursday afternoon, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said the aim of his trip was to give the Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad a message from Iran's President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and to hold talks with the Syrian foreign minister.

He added: One of the important topics of discussions will be the recent Israeli aggressions against Lebanon.

Stressing that the Hezbollah resistance movement, as well as the people and government of Lebanon, were in fact defending the territorial sovereignty of the country and their rights, Mr. Velayati said: The countries and sides that support the Zionist regime to continue its aggression should instead put an end to the Israeli aggression.

Prior to his departure from Tehran Mr. Velayati had, in an interview with our correspondent, stressed that according to Article 51 of the UN Charter, legitimate defense is the undisputed right of the Lebanese people, and that we call on the UN Security Council to pressure and condemn the Zionist regime for its repeated aggression against southern Lebanon and refusal to implement Resolution 425.

Confers With al-Asad, Nasrallah

NC3007075093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] Dr. Velayati, our foreign minister, met Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad last night in Damascus and conveyed a message from Hashemi-Rafsanjani, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to him on the situation in Lebanon.

In this meeting, Hafiz al-Asad expressed his appreciation of the principled stances of the Islamic Republic of Iran on regional and international issues and stressed the Syrian stance of combating the Zionist regime's expansionism.

The Syrian president alluded to the importance of combating Israeli aggression, and stated that the defense of Lebanon's territorial integrity was the lawful right of the Lebanese people.

During this meeting, Dr. Velayati declared that the Islamic Republic of Iran was ready to support the Islamic and nationalistic resistance of Lebanon and said: The resistance of the Lebanese nation is in accordance with the UN Charter, which recognizes the inalienable right of nations for self-defense against foreign aggressive action.

Our Foreign Minister also met Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah, the secretary general of the Lebanese Hizballah and some other members of the Hizballah leadership council last night.

Dr. Velayati arrived in the Syrian capital at the head of a delegation last evening.

Velayati Extends Visit

LD3007110793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati, who is in Damascus, has postponed his return to Tehran so that he may continue talks.

According to a Central News Unit report from Damascus Mr. Velayati met Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this morning. During the meeting the Syrian foreign minister described the Syrian president's assessment of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's message as excellent and fruitful. He said: In supporting the national Islamic resistance of the Lebanese people, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Syria have complete coordination and common stances.

Mr. Velayati described the defense of Lebanon's bastion of resistance against the Zionist regime's acts of aggression as important for the Islamic world. He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran decisively supports the legitimate resistance of the Lebanese and Palestinian nations; this support is one of the priorities of the Islamic Republic's foreign policy. Referring to the fact—which the UN Charter also recognizes—that the defense of one's home is a holy and legitimate defense, he pointed out: Tehran condemns the intensity of the Zionist regime's aggressive operations, which are a kind of state terrorism.

In the course of the meeting, the two parties laid emphasis on the continuation of unstinting support for the Lebanese resistance movement in the face of aggressors.

Immediately after his meeting with Faruq al-Shar', Mr. Velayati held a second meeting with Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah, the leader of the revolutionary Hizballah movement.

Al-Shar', Velayati Discusss Situation

JN3007123393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his delegation this morning. Iranian Ambassador in Damascus Hasan Akhtari attended. Talks centered on developments in the Lebanese arena in light of continued Israeli shelling of Lebanese villages and cities. They also discussed several issues of common interest.

Al-Shar' on Israeli Attack, Impact on Peace Process

PM3007115293 Paris LIBERATION in French 28 Jul 93 pp 13-14

[Interview with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' by Christophe Boltanski in Damascus; date not given—first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] Damascus—Despite the Israeli raids on southern Lebanon over the past 3 days, Syria is adopting a low profile. According to a diplomatic source, its army had still not been placed on alert on Monday evening. Only the air defense batteries deployed in the Lebanese al-Biqa' valley opened fire several times. Damascus hopes that this defensive attitude should pay off during the coming visit by Secretary of State Warren Christopher. On this occasion, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' intends to ask his U.S. counterpart for a firm condemnation of the Israeli offensive.

[Boltanski] Does the present crisis threaten the peace process?

[Al-Shar'] This recent attack on Lebanon could, we think, scuttle the whole process. It has become clear to the international community that Israel does not want peace, whatever government it has. Instead of implementing the UN Security Council resolutions, it is seeking to do all it can to disarm the Arabs to negotiate from a position of strength. Israel describes as terrorists those who resist the occupation and talks of self-defense when it practises state terrorism.

[Boltanski] How will Syria respond to the death of its soldiers?

[Al-Shar'] We have already responded. We will stand firm alongside the Lebanese. Coordination has been established at the highest level between our two countries.

[Boltanski] Do you envisage withdrawing from the peace process?

[Al-Shar'] That will depend both on the development of the situation, the state of public opinion in Syria and Lebanon, and the U.S. reaction as cosponsors. We are not ready to pursue these negotiations under threat from Israeli guns.

[Boltanski] Is this the most serious crisis since the Madrid conference?

[Al-Shar'] I think so. In 20 months of negotiations, Israel has established new colonies, attracted more immigrants, expelled Palestinians, bombed Lebanese villages, isolated East Jeruasalem from the rest of the occupied territories.... The crisis has now reached a paroxysm. We conclude from this that Israel is the enemy of peace.

[Boltanski] Are you satisfied with the U.S. attitude?

[Al-Shar'] If the United States thinks that the Lebanese should do nothing against the occupier, it is making a mistake. It is giving the impression of justifying the occupation. We hope that, when Secretary of State Warren Christopher visits the region, he will clearly adopt a stance against the bombing of civilian populations. We have already protested this aggression to the United States. It must come to the rescue of the peace process.

[Boltanski] The United States henceforth wishes to play a full part in the process. Do you approve of this new diplomacy?

[Al-Shar'] It is still too soon to judge. The United States must not step outside its role of honest broker.

[Boltanski] In June, you feared that it might adopt a more pro-Israeli attitude?

[Al-Shar'] The letter which Bill Clinton sent to President Hafiz al-Asad (in mid-July—LIBERATION editor's note), assuring him of the continuity of American policy in the Near East allayed our anxieties. But we want their declaration to be translated into facts. We expect action not words.

[Boltanski] What boost can they give to the Syrian-Israeli negotiations? Will they present a compromise document, as for the Palestinians?

[Al-Shar'] Our occupied land is not subject to compromise. But, at some point, the Americans will be able to help in bringing the two sides closer together in many spheres relating to security and peace.

[Boltanski] There was a great deal of talk about security during the 10th session of negotiations between you and your Israeli interlocutors.

[Al-Shar'] According to us, security must be mutual, balanced, placed on an equal footing. In other words, no measure must be taken at the expense of one of the two sides.

[Boltanski] The Israelis want to raise the level of the negotiators. Will you meet with your counterpart Shimon Peres?

[Al-Shar'] The question is not on the agenda.

Israeli Attacks Aim Confirm 'Expansionist Policy'

JN2907163893 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1510 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Text] Damascus, 29 Jul (SANA)—Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Salman has said the current Israeli aggression on Lebanon is new proof of Israel's adherence to its anti-peace expansionist policy.

This came during Salman's meeting today with participants in a symposium held by the Ministry of Information in association with the Women's General Federation. The symposium dealt with the media and issues of development and population.

He added that all the Arabs should bear the responsibility of supporting Lebanon's steadfastness against the Israeli attack. He said the conflict with Israel is pan-Arab in its essence, and requires Arab solidarity to confront the Zionist danger which does not exclude any of the Arabs. He referred to Israeli practices that do not exercise the policy of organized terrorism on the level of one nation only, but go beyond that to challenge international institutions and laws in an attempt to impose Israel's hegemony through the use of force and means of destruction.

Dr. Salman added: Israel's rulers currently aim at aborting the peace process by the use of force, after they failed to do so through maneuvers at the peace talks.

Concluding his speech, the information minister stressed the responsibility of the international community and the cosponsors of the peace process to curb Israel's aggressive policy. This is because aggression will not achieve peace but will push matters toward dangers that threaten international security and peace in this sensitive part of the world.

Rabin Seen Imposing 'Fait Accompli' on Peace Talks

JN3007075793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Press review]

[Text] Commentaries and political analyses of Damascus papers today focus on the emergency Arab foreign ministers meeting that will be held in Damascus today, and on the ruthless Israeli aggression against Lebanon and the threats it poses to the Middle East peace process.

In an editorial entitled "The Significance of the Damascus Meeting," AL-BA'TH says: The Arab foreign ministers will meet in an emergency session in Damascus today, with only one topic on their agenda: The savage Israeli aggression against Lebanon that has been going on for five days now. This aggression does not concern Lebanon alone.

AL-BA'TH says: Israel's aggression, in which all kinds of weapons of mass cstruction were used, did not just target the Lebanese national resistance, as the Zionists claim. It has been confirmed that the real objective is to empty the south of its inhabitants and destroy the infrastructure of the entire area. The most important objective, from the viewpoint of Rabin's government, is represented in the attempt to impose a fait accompli on the peace talks. The Israeli side has failed to achieve what it wanted in 10 rounds of talks, which all ended in failure because of the Israeli position that rejects peace and its requirements.

AL-BA'TH asserts that everyone, without exception, is threatened. Israel, the paper says, wants both peace and territory, and because Lebanon refused to give Israel what it wanted, it was targeted by this savage aggression.

The paper emphasizes the importance of the united Arab position and says our Arab rights cannot be regained unless we take a united stand and provide all the necessary conditions to regain these rights. We must also work with all peace- and justice-loving people to create a world free of all forms of aggression, fanaticism, and racism because we are all facing the same threat.

In an article entitled "The Urgent Task," AL-THAWRAH says: This was not the first time Israel has launched a flagrant aggression against Lebanon; Israel has staged aggressions against Lebanon throughout the years. The Israeli aggression this time, however, is different because of the extent of its savageness and barbarism. It is aimed at destroying the entire southern part of Lebanon and displacing thousands of its inhabitants under the pressure of savage demolition and random shelling of its towns and villages.

The paper says the new Israeli aggression and the scorched-earth policy mean that Israel does not want a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. What Israel wants is simply to execute its policy of war and aggression and realize its objective of entrenching its occupation of Arab territory,

AL-THAWRAH also asserts that with its vicious aggression, Israel has not only violated Lebanon's sovereignty and right to regain the occupied part of its south, but also violated the principles and legitimacy of the United Nations. It has pushed the situation in the region to its very dangerous limits, thus threatening to torpedo the remaining, meager, chances for peace and the peace process.

The paper urges the world community to shoulder its responsibility and confront the Israeli aggression by meting out the most severe punishment to the Israeli aggressors.

In another article, AL-THAWRAH stresses the need for the UN Security Council to take a decisive stand to deter Israeli aggression. The paper says: Confronted with this ugly and horrible crime committed on the Lebanese territory, we expected the UN Security Council to be more decisive with the Israeli aggressor. We expected the Council to quickly take practical measures to stop the savage onslaught and prevent Israel from continuing with its attempts to torpedo the peace process and make a mockery of the resolutions of the United Nations and the UN Security Council.

Media Reaction to Israeli Operation Summarized

JN2907151393

[Editorial Report] The following is a roundup of Syrian media reaction to the Israeli military operation in Lebanon, as monitored at FBIS Jordan Bureau through 1300 GMT 29 July:

1. Damascus media, which reported the "martyrdom" of three Syrian soldiers and the injury of three others in the Israeli raids on Syrian positions in al-Biqa' Valley on 25 July, have not been observed to report any other Syrian losses or any Syrian interceptions of the "raiding Israeli warplanes" on the following days of the Israeli operation. Commenting on the raids, a Damascus Radio station commentary on 26 July said: "By targeting the Syrian positions in its aggression, Israel wants to drag Syria into a reaction that would help Israel cover its real political aims behind this military aggression."

2. Damascus Radio station commentaries and press editorials continued to link the raids to an Israeli attempt to derail U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's forthcoming tour of the Middle East, contending that the raids will end in complete failure. In its review of the Syrian press on 26 July, Damascus radio cited AL-BA'TH as saying that the "aggression" is designed "to obstruct peace efforts as a prelude to blowing up the very foundations of the peace process." It added that the "escalation of the military situation will continue as the U.S. secretary's tour of the region draws nearer." Concluding, it said: "Lebanon is not an easy morsel for Israel. The valiant Lebanese Army, the heroic resistance, and the entire Lebanese people will turn into one mass of resistance that will burn the land under the feet of the invaders."

A Damascus Radio commentary on 27 July hints that if Israel continues its "sinful aggression," Warren Christopher's "impending mission becomes meaningless." A similar opinion was expressed by TISHRIN, which was cited by Damascus Radio on 28 July as saying: "Israel may derail the peace process if the international community, and the United States in particular, do not adopt a firm, deterrent position that brings an end to the Israeli aggression."

3. Monitored Syrian support for Lebanon:

A. In a station commentary on 20 July, Damascus Radio said: "They [Israeli rulers] also know that Syrian-Lebanese relations are founded on blood and common destiny, that what harms Lebanon also harms Syria, and that Syria cannot just stand and watch the pain and suffering of the Lebanese brothers. From this premise, Syria considers southern Lebanon a Syrian cause as much as it is a Lebanese cause."

B. An official Syrian statement on the Israeli raids, issued on 26 July, stated that Syria "supports sisterly Lebanon, whose martyrs' blood was mixed with the blood of the Syrian people, and expresses solidarity with Lebanon in the face of this sinful Israeli aggression." It added that Israel's "brutal aggression...cannot be viewed as aggression only against Lebanon, Syria, and the Arabs. It is an aggression against the entire international community..."

C. An editorial in Damascus TISHRIN, reported by Damascus Radio on 27 July, said: "The threat Lebanon is now facing has also revealed the depth of coordination and rapprochement between Lebanon and Syria. Syrian blood has merged with the Lebanese blood which confronted Israel. Moreover, Damascus announced its firm support for Lebanon."

D. Damascus Radio on 27 July reported on a Syrian Cabinet meeting during which the Cabinet "reiterated Syria's support for brotherly Lebanon and its people and their adherence to their rights and land." The report cited the foreign minister as saying that Syria "had initiated Arab and international contacts to express the aims of the aggression, bring about its termination, and point out its potential impact on the peace process."

4. Syrian media have not been observed to report or comment on President Clinton's remarks that the Syrians have shown "commendable restraint." However, President Clinton's summoning of Secretary of State Warren Christopher back home from an Asian visit for consultations on the situation in Lebanon has been reported by Damascus Radio. In its 1115 GMT newscast

on 26 July, Damascus radio cited Warren Christopher as telling reporters in Singapore that "making progress in the Middle East peace process is the only cure for the current battles in Lebanon," and that "the United States calls on the warring parties to exercise self-restraint." Damascus Radio on 27 July reported Christopher's phone call to the Syrian foreign minister during which they "talked about the ominous military escalation in Lebanon and the risks it carries for the peace process."

5. Syrian media have not been observed to report on the Syrian foreign minister's statement to Paris LIBERATION, in which he was quoted by Paris Radio Monte Carlo as saying "Syria is not ready to resume [Arab-Israeli] talks under the threat of Israeli guns." A Damascus Radio commentary on 29 July echoed a similar theme when it said "the Arabs cannot continue the peace process under threats of war, aggression, and saber-rattling." It warned that Israeli aggressiveness might "lead the entire region to the brink of war."

Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam's meeting with the head of the Hizballah Political Bureau, as reported by Paris Radio Monte Carlo, also has not been reported by Syrian media.

6. Syrian Television, Radio, and news agency continue to extensively report on Lebanese war developments, quoting Lebanese sources and foreign news agencies and highlighting various world reactions to the raids.

Commentary Discusses Runup to Arab Ministers' Meeting

JN2907154293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1141 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] At Lebanon's request, Arab foreign ministers are preparing to hold an emergency meeting in Damascus tomorrow, Friday, to take a unified position on confronting the Israeli aggression against this fraternal country. For five days, this country has been subjected to an Israeli onslaught that outshines earlier ones in barbarism, brutality, and brazenness. This is especially true because this onslaught is publicly and glaringly designed to destroy Lebanese villages and towns and to kill, displace, and evacuate their people. Undoubtedly, there is a pressing need for such a unified Arab position to bring this aggression to an immediate halt. All the denunciatory statements and criticisms by various international parties have not deterred this aggression or eased its ferociousness.

In the first place, it is important to adopt such a unified Arab position in order to make the Israeli aggressors, their supporters, and the world understand that Lebanon is not alone in this confrontation. The entire Arab nation stands alongside the resisting Lebanese people. Certainly, the expression of such a stand must not be confined to solidarity or denunciatory statements. It must be translated into actual measures to make the aggressors and the international community aware of the true Arab weight in support of Lebanon in its ordeal.

When discussing this brutal Israeli aggression, the Arab foreign ministers will undoubtedly carefully examine its true motives and objectives. It is has become clear that aggressive military action is the natural outcome of Israeli intransigence at the peace negotiations. In fact, this action is a practical translation on the ground of Israel's adherence to occupation and its refusal to comply with UN resolutions. This aggression is the other side of Israeli intransigence at the peace negotiations. The Rabin government is using its military machine to impose by force what it was unable to impose on the Lebanese delegation during the negotiations. Everyone knows that during the negotiating process, especially during the last two rounds, Israel tried to pressure the negotiating Lebanese delegation to accept the setting up of a joint military committee, called the security committee. But, such a committee, in reality, is aimed at safeguarding Israel's security and occupation of southern Lebanon. The Lebanese delegation resisted this Israeli attempt by insisting that any discussions on security topics must be preceded by the termination of the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon through Resolution 425. It has become evident that one of the objectives of the current five-day Israeli aggression is to give the question of security precedence over the question of occupation. Thus, the problem between Israel and Lebanon would be turned from a question of occupation into a security issue which needs an immediate solution.

Aware of this objective, the Arabs are urged to adopt a firm position to prevent Israel from achieving this objective, This would be through putting emphasis on the need to make Israel abide by international legitimacy and its resolutions, especially Resolution 425 on Lebanon. Likewise, a unified Arab position in confronting the ongoing Israeli aggression agains. Lebanon must constitute a deterrence to Israel, so it will not be deluded into believing it can impose on the Arabs through military force what it cannot impose on them through its intransigence at the negotiating process.

We do not believe it is unfair to say that the current Israeli aggression against Lebanon would not have taken place if Israel's intransigence during the past 10 rounds of negotiations had been met by anything but silence, especially from the sponsors of the peace process. Even the current aggression would not have continued if the influential international powers had done anything beyond offering shy criticism. Had the cosponsors of the peace conference, in particular, countered Israel's intransigence at the peace negotiations with pressure to make it comply with the bases of the peace process—namely, relevant UN resolutions and the land-for- peace principle—Israel would not have dared to commit its current aggression. Hence, it is not possible to deter present and future Israeli aggressiveness only by making it halt its current hostilities. Pressure must be put on Israel to make it comply with UN resolutions. Israel and the

world must understand that the Arabs cannot continue the peace process under Israel's threats of war, aggression, and saber-rattling.

At their meeting in Damascus, the Arabs must make the world understand that unless the international community, through its effective institutions, curbs Israeli aggressiveness, this aggressiveness will not lead only to the abyss, but will lead the entire region to the brink of war. The developments of the Israeli aggression against Lebanon show that Israel is not targeting a specific group or only the Lebanese resistance, but the entire Lebanese people. Israeli hatred is not confined to a specific group. No one is singled out; hence, the comprehensive destruction, killing, and displacement. If the Israeli rancor targets the entire Lebanese people, no Arab is exempt from this rancor and from the threat and danger posed by Israel.

Hence, when the Arabs support Lebanon today, this means they are supporting themselves now and in the future against the common Zionist danger and its military war machine, which targets of everyone of them without exception.

Afghanistan

Minister Declares Readiness for Negotiations With Russia

LD2907175793 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1000 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Text] Afghanistan declared its readiness to hold negotiations with Russia regarding normalizing the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border. Hamed Karzay, deputy minister of foreign affairs of Afghanistan, reported this to foreign correspondents. He said that Kabul is ready to send its delegation to the capital of Tajikistan for a meeting with Russian representatives.

Rabbani Attends Council Meeting, Discusses Tajikistan

LD2907191293 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Excerpt] Esteemed professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA], attended a session of the Consultative Council of the Presidency this morning. A BIA correspondent reports that the meeting, held at Delkosh Palace, was attended by a number of ministers, high-ranking state officials, university teachers, [words indistinct] a number of jihadi commanders, diplomats, and foreign journalists based in Kabul.

At the begining of the session, the esteemed ISA president shed light on the formation of the Consultative Council and the importance of the Council as a base for the ulema of the Islamic system and said: Under present conditions, as our country takes steps toward stability and strength, the establishment of the Consultative Council is valuable in connection with lofty Islamic culture and is a definite necessity of Islamic society.

The ISA president added that respect for the ulema, scholars, and intellectuals is one of the characteristics and aims of an Islamic state. Contrary to despotic systems—which propagate a brain drain and which imprison and crush scholars—the Islamic state sees its existance, stability, and continuity in enhancing, supporting, and strengthening scholars and intellectuals, and wants scholars and ulema to have a constructive role in all aspect of the society.

Touching on border problems with Tajikistan, the ISA president said: Our country and the ISA want peace and security in the world and especially in the region. It has never favored tension among the countries of the region. Our country is free and independent and loathes interference in the internal affairs of others and its own country. [passage omitted]

Kabul Denies Sending Invitation to 'Abd-al-Rahman

PM3007113693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Jul 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Despite Confirmation of al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah in Egypt that Kabul Considers Hosting 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, Kabul Denies Sending Him Official Invitation"]

[Excerpt] London, Kabul, Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—A spokesman for Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar has denied what the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [Islamic Group] in Egypt announced, namely that Hekmatyar had agreed to its request to host Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman in Afghanistan.

'Abdol Ghafur, Hekmatyar's spokesman, said that no official invitation has been sent to Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman to come to Afghanistan. He added that the Afghan Hezb-e Eslami appreciates the help it received from all Muslim brothers during the jihad against the Soviet aggression and that it will do its utmost to return this favor.

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman, he added, will be welcomed like any other Muslim who wishes to come to Afghanistan, but the details should be discussed by the authorities in Kabul.

Other sources in Kabul have said that the question of hosting 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman was discussed in the Afghan Government's meeting last Tuesday and was referred to Foreign Minister Hedayatollah Amin [title as published] for further consideration.

The sources added that all that had happened was that Hekmatyar replied to a personal message he had received. They said the Afghan authorities are worried that sending an official invitation to Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman could provoke disagreements with some Islamic states, especially Egypt. [passage omitted]

Bangladesh

Spokesman 'Strongly Condemns' Israeli Attack on Lebanon

BK2907152893 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Text] Bangladesh strongly condemns Israel's inhuman brutality on the civilian population in Lebanon and its attack on the sovereignty and territory integrity of that country. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Dhaka today that Bangladesh appealed to the UN Security Council to take all possible steps to end Israel's inhuman violence and to effect withdrawal of troops from the Lebanese territory. He said that Bangladesh believes in the policy of sovereign equality, noninterference in each other's internal affairs, in not using force to resolve

disputes between countries, and in the territorial integrity of countries as provided by the UN Charter. The spokesman said that the Israeli armed forces' cruel and incessant bombarding of a civilian population also constitutes a serious violation of human rights.

Chakma Tribals Divided on Repatriation Issue

BK2807110393 Dhaka DAINIK ITTEFAQ in Bengali 23 Jul 93 p 1

[By Alamgir Hossain]

[Text] Repatriation of the Bangladeshi tribal refugees from the Indian state of Tripura hangs on the decision by New Delhi. Despite several official-level talks held between the two sides and the recent move taken by the communications minister of Bangladesh, Colonel Oli Ahmed (retired), the Indian Government has not yet given its decision on this issue.

Delhi has dispatched a central team led by an official of the Home Ministry to visit the refugee camps in Tripura. The central government will give its decision on the basis of the report submitted by this team. It has also directed the state government of Tripura not to make any decision on the issue without the consent of the tribal leaders. The center has also asked the state government to make arrangements for the repatriation of the refugees if their leaders agree to go back to Chittagong Hill Tracts District of Bangladesh after the visit of the central team led by the Home Ministry official.

At present the refugee leaders are divided on the issue of repatriation. The leader of the Shanti Bahini [tribal insurgents], Santu Larma, made efforts to resolve the problem through dialogue with the Bangladeshi authorities. But a leader of another faction led by the former member of parliament, Upendra Lal Chakma, is trying to foil the repatriation process. This group recently formed an organization in Tripura and named it Jhoom Welfare Association. He has also shown disregard for efforts towards observing a ceasefire in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Chakma is demanding that his delegation be allowed to visit Chittagong Hill Tracts to see for themselves the situation prevailing there and to make a decision on the repatriation issue. He is also demanding that a team of journalists from India, the United Kingdom, and the United States be allowed to accompany them.

Bangladeshi authorities have not said anything regarding this latest demand raised by Chakma. An earlier demand by Chakma to involve the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the repatriation process was rejected by Bangladeshi authorities.

India

Legislation Introduced To Bar Religion From Politics

BK2907134993 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Text] The government has introduced two bills seeking to prevent use of religion for political gains in the Lok Sabha. One of them is the Constitution Amendment Bill which aims at disqualifying candidates who promote feelings of enmity, hatred, or ill-will between different classes of citizens on grounds of religion, race, caste, community, or language. The other bill, to amend the Representation of People Act 1951, empowers the Election Commission to debar political parties if the association or body bears a religious name containing an appeal to both on the grounds of religion. The bill provides a time limit of 90 days for political parties with religious names to change such names.

Introducing the Constitution Amendment Bill, the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, said that the aim is to prevent misuse of religion for political purposes. Replying to objections raised by political parties, he said he is not opposed to referring the bill to a joint select committee of parliament. He said the committee can go through the bill clause-by-clause and return it within a fortnight for taking it up in this session itself.

Opposing the introduction of the bill, Mr. L.K. Advani, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], said that the bill undermines democracy and is fraught with dangerous consequences. While agreeing with the basic principles of the bill, Mr. Somnath Chatterjee, CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist]; Mr. Indrajit Gupta, CPI; and Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan, Janata Dal, wanted the bill to be referred to a select committee. Mr. George Fernandes, Janata Dal, pointed out that some provisions of the bill will dilute basic rights enshrined in the Constitution. Mr. Sulaiman Sait, IUML [Indian Union Muslim League]; Mr. P.G. Narayanan, AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagham]; Mr. Guman Mallodha and Mr. Ram Katre, both BJP; and Mr. Surya Narain Yadav, JD-A [Janata Dal-Ajit], also objected to the introduction of the bill. The bill to amend the Representation of People Act was introduced by the minister of state for law, Mr. H.R. Bhardwaj.

Security Forces Kill 'Hard-Core' Militant in Kashmir

BK2907161693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Text] In the Kashmir valley, security forces achieved a major success when a hard-core militant and chief of a militant outfit—the so-called Tehrikul Mojahedin—Sajjad Mir alias Mohammad Salim Mir, was killed in an encounter in Srinagar last night. The state director general of police said today that security forces launched a search operation after getting specific information. The

militants were asked to surrender but they fired on the security forces who returned the fire, killing the hard-core militant.

Prominent Kashmir Mojahedin Leader Killed

BK2907150993 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Text] In occupied Kashmir, eight people including a prominent mojahedin leader have been martyred by occupation forces. According to KMS [KASHMIR MEDIA SERVICE], chief commander of Tehrikul Mojahedin, Sajjad Mir, was rounded up in Srinagar and sent to an interrogation center. Later, his bullet-ridden body was handed over to his relatives. About 10,000 demonstrators took to the streets of the capital Srinagar to protest the killing of the top mojahedin leader. The demonstrators raised anti-India slogans expressing their hatred and anguish. Meanwhile, clashes between mojahedin and Indian troops continued at various places with casualties on both sides. The Indian troops set ablaze houses and shops in Bejbehara area. Several areas of occupied Kashmir remained under severe crackdown during which innocent people were subjected to violence and humiliation. House-to-house searches were carried out in Srinagar, Anantnag-Islamabad, and Baramula.

ISRO May Produce Cyrogenic Engine by 1997

BK2907005693 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 22 Jul 93 p 9

[By M. A. Deviah: "Indian cryogenic engine by 1997?"]

[Text] Far from delivering a crippling blow to the Indian space programme, the US-inspired cancellation or 'freezing' of the Rs 230-crore cryogenic rocket deal by Russia may actually boost indigenisation efforts. According to sources in ISRO [Indian Space Research Organization], with or without sanctions an indigenous cryogenic rocket engine could be ready by 1997.

Surprisingly, the mood that prevails in ISRO's Bangalore headquarters is not one of shock and anger but of quiet determination. Scientists have access to much of the technology as the transfer of Russian cryogenic technology started almost immediately after the agreement was signed in early 1991. ISRO teams have already been working on the project with Glavkosmos, the Russian space agency.

According to Union Minister of State for Science and Technology, P.R. Kumaramangalam, the detailed plans for the engines are already with ISRO. But the plans alone are not enough for ISRO to build the engines. Cryogenic engines use liquid hydrogen and oxygen fuels kept at below minus 100 degree centigrade. At that temperature, metal becomes brittle and can crumble like a wafer. Building a cryogenic engine requires special metal alloys that can withstand the super-cold temperatures.

ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre has already developed a one-tonne cryogenic engine, which feeds fuel into the engine by using pressure. This must provide some optimism, but there is still much research to be done before the 12-tonne engine needed for the Geostationary Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) is developed. A further complication is that fuel in the GSLV engine will have to be fed by a turbo-prop to save on weight.

Still, ISRO has had a good record as far as indigenisation goes. When the American sanctions were first slapped on the organisation, ISRO had all the parts required for INSAT 2A and most of the parts for INSAT 2B. ISRO is now on the verge of launching INSAT 2B and is quite confident that INSAT 2C will go up on schedule at the end of 1994.

Among the crucial components that ISRO developed for itself were radiation hardened integrated circuits, which was till then available only from the US. ISRO scientists developed their own way of imparting radiation hardening.

Admittedly, the Indian method makes the integrated circuits heavier than they would normally be, but the bottom line is that they go up and do the work. Similar attempts to indigenise kevlar, a composite material used in satellite construction, at the National Aerospace Laboratories has borne fruit.

ISRO Chairman U.R. Rao, now in French Guyana to supervise the INSAT 2B launch had estimated early this year that indigenisation would cost the space programme an additional 10 percent and would push the time-table back a little.

Though the U.S. is using the pretext of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), the real reasons, are rooted in crass commercialism. According to scientists, the US is disturbed over the fact that India, with its launch-pad at Sriharikota, which is said to enjoy the second-best positioning in the world, can emerge a competitor to the Americans and French in the satellite launching business.

Already, the emergence of the Russians and Chinese offering launches at half the prices being demanded by the West has disturbed the Western cartel. With an increasing number of countries—such as Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Malaysia—wanting to put up their own satellites, another player in the satellite launching field is certainly not in US interest.

Party Leaders Backed Rao in Facing Opposition Challenge

BK2907054693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Commentary by M.K. Tikku]

[Text] What could, perhaps, go down as the most suspenseful day in Indian parliamentary history ended last

night, when a joint opposition motion of no-confidence was put to vote in the Lok Sabha. As it turned out, the motion expressing lack of confidence in the government headed by Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao fell through as it received the backing of 251 members only, while 265 voted against it. Thus, even in its final denouement there was some element of surprise, because during the three-day debate on the motion it had seemed a touch and go situation, and few non-partisan observers would have been willing to put their money on the bet that the government would win a margin of as many as 14 votes.

In fact, it was such a cliff-hanger situation that the Janata Dal faction led by Mr. Ajit Singh suddenly found itself catapulted into a position of pivotal importance. The Janata Dal-A kept everybody guessing at it debated without deciding on whether its members would vote for the motion or against it. And when it finally announced its decision to vote in favor of no-confidence motion, the ruling Congress-I party seemed dithering close to a precipice. Though it could still be argued that the Janata Dal-A despite its decision to go along with the opposition, finally ended up contributing to the ruling party's victory since several of its members voted against the motion.

Another shot in the arm of the ruling Congress-I party came from its ability to persuade the Jharkhand Mutki Morcha members to fall in line. This was made possible with the solemn assurances from the government that their demand for a regional autonomous council for the Jharkhand region would be positively considered.

The decision of the members of the Muslim League and Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav's Samajwadi Janata Dal to abstain from voting also helped the ruling party as these represented chinks in the opposition's collective bid to vote out the government.

Though it was the third no-confidence motion in two years since the Narasimha Rao government assumed office, this one represented the most formidable challenge mounted jointly by the opposition parties. Though the motion moved by the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] member, Mr. Ajay Mukhopadhyay, did make critical references to the government's handling of the communal situation with the implicit criticism of the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP], the BJP decided to go along with the motion ignoring the critical references. This uncharacteristic combination of the opposition forces, representing a very wide spectrum from the extreme right to the extreme left, no doubt, became the source of anxiety for the Congress leaders, who, too, closed their ranks and sank their differences and fully backed the prime minister.

Five Cooperation Agreements Signed With Uzbekistan

BK2907161493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Text] India and Uzbekistan today signed five agreements for strengthening bilateral cooperation in various fields. These are science and technology, tourism, avoidance of double taxation, cooperation between the foreign ministries of the two countries, and a memorandum of understanding. The agreements were signed at the conclusion of the first meeting of the Indo-Uzbek Joint Commission in New Delhi today. The three-day meeting was cochaired by the external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, and the Uzbek deputy prime minister, Mr. Miryakubov [name and title as heard].

Earlier, the deputy prime minister of Uzbekistan, Mr. (Miryakubov) [name and title as heard], called on the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, and had wide-ranging discussions on matters of bilateral and regional interest.

Iran

Khamene'i Continues Tour of Azerbaijan Province

Notes Country's Strengths

LD2907174593 Tehran IRNA in English 1655 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Text] Tabriz, East Azerbaijan Prov., July 29, IRNA—The supreme leader Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i said on Thursday [29 July] that the enemies of the country have not yet realized the true power of the Islamic Revolution and Republic.

"They (enemies) have failed to understood this reality that the Iranian nation is invincible and a government which enjoys the support of such people will remain invulnerable," the leader said.

The leader of the Islamic Revolution made the remarks in a speech to a large crowd of people in Hashtrud, East Azerbaijan Province, shortly after he arrived in the town on the third day of his inspection tour of this north-western province.

Pointing to the love of each and every Iranian in the four corners of the country for Islam and Islamic ideals, the supreme leader said every country which enjoys such sentiments and emotions can stand to the biggest powers of the world and prevent their domination.

"Therefore," the ayatollah said, "our enemies who threaten the Iranian nation should know that they are in error...it seems that the mistakes made by the great politicians of the world account for most of the blows they are suffering."

Tens of thousands of people from Hashtrud and its suburbs had gathered at the town to welcome their beloved leader and listen to his speech.

Before arriving in the town, Ayatollah Khamene'i visited Oshandel, a small village 10 kms from Hashtrud where he talked with its residents. The residents of the village accorded the leader a warm welcome by slaughtering sheep and distributing candies.

Views Clinton's 'Naive' Efforts

LD3007115793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Continuing his trip to Tabriz, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of Islamic Revolution, met officials and administrators of East Azerbaijan province last night. In a speech, he described service to the people within the framework of lofty humanistic and divine aspirations as something of great value. He drew attention to establishing a religious atmosphere in the work place. My colleague from Tabriz will inform you of the main points of the eminent leader's speech.

[Unidentified correspondent] In his remarks, the eminent leader paid tribute to the people of Azerbaijan. [passage omitted] The leader of the Islamic revolution also referred to the efforts of the enemies of Islam aimed at putting pressure on the Iranian nation. He said: The young and naive person who has come to power in America is ignorant about his predecessors' efforts aimed at placing Islamic Iran in an economic bottleneck. He does not know that his colleagues during the term of the Republicans were not able to do a damned thing, and they will still not be able to do anything.

During the course of the imposed war, they made a resolute decision not to sell weapons to us. At that time, even the now-defunct Soviet Union was refusing to sell barbed wire to Iran, on the pretext that it could be be used for military purposes. Under these circumstances, where they had all joined hands to prevent the Islamic Republic of Iran from purchasing even one bullet, we were able to obtain sophisticated weapons from the very heart of those same countries. If we intend to obtain the goods we need from anywhere we wish, we have the power to do so.

At the end of his remarks, the eminent leader stressed the inability of the enemies of Islam to confront the great Iranian nation. He said: If we make sufficient endeavors, act with shrewdness, do not become a victim of circumstances, and finally use our innovative and creative abilities in order to influence the course of events, the enemy will not be able to further its aims, just as the East-West coalition was rendered helpless during the last 14 years. [passage omitted]

Larijani Discusses U.S. Aims in Region

NC2907121093 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 6 Jul 93 p 2

[Report on a meeting between Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani, Supreme National Security Council adviser and Tehran Majles deputy, and unidentified IRNA correspondent in Tehran; date not given]

[Text] Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani, the Tehran Majles deputy said: The U.S. missile attack on Baghdad aimed to create changes in the political system of Iraq.

Speaking to the correspondent for IRNA's political group, he said: Since no reaction to this attack is expected and it did not meet any resistance from Saddam, the attack is bereft of any military value. Elaborating, Dr. Larijani stated: Retaining Saddam's regime as it is has no advantage for the Americans. So far, the United States has preserved Saddam with the intention of plundering the region's Arab countries, especially Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, but now the patience of these two regimes has worn out. Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have reportedly spent $30 billion on weapons in the past year.

Larijani added: The United States is losing control of the affairs of the region and to reassert its control, it is forced to revamp things in Iraq. This is because it believes this will affect the solution of the Palestine issue, change the system of government in the southern Persian Gulf as a major oil-producing area and, theoretically, combat Islamic fundamentalism.

On establishing a laicist regime in Iraq similar to the one in Turkey, which may be more beneficial in terms of religion, Larijani said: The natural course for a change of government in Iraq is to permit the people to put their preferred regime in power. This is exactly what the Americans do not want, as they have experienced what happens when the wishes of Muslims in other countries, such as Algeria, are considered. So, the United States and its allies in the West, who do not want Saddam to remain in power and who constantly make things difficult for his regime and threaten him, do this so they can deal with the other members of the regime within the country in such a manner that these members of the Iraqi regime will themselves eliminate the other clique. This measure may prove effective in the short term, as the coup d'etat theory has not proved very successful in Iraq in the past two years.

Dr. Larijani commented on the U.S. house-to-house war with the Saddam regime, saying: The dispatch of forces to Iraq for a change in government there will not come cheap for the Westerners, who have shown they cannot bear to have their soldiers' bodies returned to Washington and Europe's capitals. The killing of Italian soldiers in Somalia has instilled fear in the Italians, who say this is the first time since World War II that Italian soldiers' bodies have been flown to Rome.

Dr. Larijani, who is also the deputy head of the Islamic Majles Foreign Relations Committee, described the other objectives of the U.S. missile attack on Baghdad as having more of a propaganda aspect and stated: Clinton knows that if terrorist actions occur, no one can combat them. If the United States aims to link all terrorist actions with Iran, it knows these claims are not true. We think in a particular way, the effect of which no one can cancel among the nations, especially among Muslims.

Larijani, who is also a member of the Supreme National Security Council, described a military confrontation against Islamic thought as a clear indication of the lack of competitive rival thinking and added: The military suppression of Muslims in Algeria under the West's supervision and guidance is due to their being unable to combat the movement for the revival of Islam with a similar movement. No rival movement exists, so they have become vindictive.

Describing U.S. efforts to impose its leadership and guardianship on the world as the factor serving to undermine the U.S. position, Dr. Larijani said: Following the collapse of the Eastern empire, the United States imagined it could fill the vacuum, but the world is far less willing to accept a single empire than the bipolar system.

Alluding to U.S. plans to create fundamental changes in the political structure of the Arab regional countries, Dr. Larijani said: The Americans seek to create simultaneous changes in Iraq and regional countries, which is why, suddenly, a reform-seeking group that enjoys U.S. support has emerged in Saudi Arabia. The U.S. ambassador has officially stressed his support for it. And Amnesty International and the Committee for Human Rights have become more active in Saudi Arabia. The U.S. ambassador in Kuwait said the government there has been unable to put things in order.

Dr. Larijani then referred to countries' opposition to the unjustifiable U.S. action in using force to intervene in countries. Asked whether the United States attacked Baghdad with missiles with the intention of intimidating hostile countries, including Iran, he said: If we were to be daunted by the United States, the conditions in the imposed war were far more likely to see us intimidated than those of today. The firmness and the popular nature of our system, the abundant resources of our country, and the divine thinking that reign over our system are among the reasons we are not cowed by enemies. No sensible politician would concede that the United States can intimidate the Iranian nation.

Concluding, Dr. Larijani said the missile attack on Baghdad could be construed as an attempt to redeem Clinton's waning popularity. While emphasizing the gradual decline in the greatness of the United States, he continued: The Americans have a tough competitive field before them on the international scene. They seek to use their strength and military resources to transform themselves into an economic and political power. Bush clearly declared that the world should be led by the West and the West by the United States. In my opinion, this thinking is becoming less prevalent in the world.

And the United States is not in the position of the world's guardian. Nor does it have the capability to be such a guardian. There are numerous signs of the decline in the influence the United States desires.

Tehran Majles Deputy Dr. Larijani aired his views on changes in the future Iranian cabinet. He said a change in the cabinet and in the sensitive management of the administrative system is necessary. He described working in Iran as similar to a competition to render better service, saying: It is not a competition for rivalry, but a contest as to who can provide greater service; this calls for a quantum leap in boosting efficiency at the highest level of management in the country.

On the possibility of his inclusion in Hashemi-Rafsanjani's cabinet, Dr. Larijani said: The selection of Cabinet members will tread its natural course.

He likened Hashemi-Rafsanjani to a jewel in the political structure of Iran and the Islamic world, saying: Based on these considerations, Hashemi-Rafsanjani should form his own Cabinet.

Commentary Sees U.S. Efforts To Exert Economic Pressure

NC2907083293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Station commentary by the News Commentaries Group]

[Text] Esteemed listeners, addressing the House of Representatives Subcommittee for Europe and the Middle East, the U.S. assistant secretary of state said: We intend to exert increasing economic pressure on Iran to motivate it to change its attitude. He added: We are also making a separate [jodaganeh] effort to take steps to curb any export of sensitive technology to Iran.

Thus, the U.S. echelons have again revealed their long-standing hostility toward the Islamic revolution and Islam and have reaffirmed their inimical attitude toward Islamic Iran. Under the able leadership of Imam Khomeyni—may God's blessings be upon him—the Muslim Iranian nation shattered the most important U.S. political-military base in the region, that is, the monarchical government, and laid the foundations of the first Islamic government in the 20th century. There was no doubt that the U.S. leaders—who incurred the greatest losses when their pillage of Iran was terminated—would never tread the path of friendship with the Iranian nation.

The U.S. policy toward Iran and the Muslim Iranian nation further confirms this. But an important point is that since the hands of the United States have been tied

in respect of its plots to influence Iran internally, its efforts to spread its foreign plots have been stepped up.

The system's political stability and the invincible ties between the people and the leadership, as well as the destruction of all opposition fronts in and around the country, have found the U.S. echelons resorting to stone throwing from afar. Washington has realized today that after establishing its rightful government, Islamic Iran seeks to achieve economic prosperity and to project a superior model of an Islamic society endowed with advanced technology, while the U.S. pawns in the region are in the throes of economic crises.

An embargo has been imposed to prevent Iran from acquiring sensitive technology on principle, because of Iran's dazzling ability to use this technology to make its economy flourish. If Islamic Iran were to present its Islamic economy as a model to the world, there would be no place for the crumbling Western model.

Let us see what the United States considers to be an undesirable attitude by Iran, which it seeks to change. Is it Iran's support of the Islamic movement in Palestine against the atrocities of the occupied Jerusalem regime and its opposition to legitimacy being granted to the despotic Jerusalem regime in the name of peace talks? Is the policy of the Zionist regime and its massacre of the Muslim Palestinian nation in line with the bases of human rights? By the same token, does Iran's opposition to it violate human rights, making this an undesirable attitude? Is Islamic Iran's opposition to the continuing usurpation of south Lebanon and Israel's recurring aggression against that country, which on each occasion results in new catastrophes and sacrifices for the Muslims in this region, undesirable behavior that needs to be tackled? And should Israel's criminal actions in the region be supported? Is the support of the Muslim Iranian nation for the supreme personality of the prophet of Islam against the cowardly and base affronts by the author of *The Satanic Verses* undesirable conduct? Does it follow that the Iranian nation should be subjected to economic pressure and the apostate Salman Rushdie should be glorified?

After 15 years, it would be worth their while for the U.S. politicians to take a look at their own inhuman policies internationally, rather than attempt to delineate what is undesirable behavior by the Muslim Iranian nation. They should then take steps to change their own policy, which has brought nothing but hardship to nations.

Today, the nations of Palestine, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Somalia, Algeria, Egypt, and all the peoples of Asia, Africa, and Latin America consider the U.S. policies and actions as the source of all their problems. The Muslim Iranian nation knows full well that the country's economic reconstruction, while enemies such as the United States exist, is a difficult task. But the people have learned from experience that their determination has always triumphed over such difficulties and eliminated them.

The U.S. intention to concentrate on exerting economic pressure on Iran has only served to boost the people's conviction that their path is correct and has highlighted more than ever the need to consolidate the unity of rank between the government and the nation, especially for the economic prosperity of Iran.

If Islamic Iran, under a military embargo, could destroy the greatest military machine supported by the East and the West in the region, there is no doubt that under an economic embargo, it would nurture its economy to success.

Yazdi Criticizes U.S., UN Over Israeli Attacks

LD3007112893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] With extensive popular participation, Friday prayers were simultaneously staged throughout the country today. In Tehran, Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, provisional Friday prayer leader of Tehran, delivered the sermons.

In his sermons Ayatollah Yazdi condemned the Zionist regime's attacks on Lebanon, and described them as a manifestation of Tel Aviv's aggressive nature. Referring to America's support for Israel, and to Washington's acts in other parts of the world, he said: Without a reconsideration by America of its behavior, and without an end to the White House's support for regimes such as Israel, there will be no possibility for creating real peace in the world.

The head of the judiciary branch criticized the performance of the United Nations, and demanded that the organization deal seriously with the Zionist regime's policy of occupation.

Ayatollah Yazdi referred to remarks made by the American vice president in connection with relations with Tehran. He said: Washington has said it is still intent on creating political and economic pressures, and thereby rendering Islamic Iran helpless. However, as the eminent leader emphasized during his blessed trip to Tabriz, in view of the vigilance, unity, and solidarity of the Iranian nation, such efforts will prove futile, as before.

Moreover, he pointed to the issue of Karabakh, and said: There is no military solution to this problem. Armenia must withdraw from Azerbaijani territory, and the two sides should resolve their dispute through diplomatic negotiations.

On the dispatch of Russian support forces to the Tajik-Afghan border, Ayatollah Yazdi said: In view of the bitter experience of the invasion of Afghanistan, Moscow must act with great caution in these matters, and refrain from interfering in the fate of the Muslims.

The head of the judiciary branch discussed the extensive presence of women in various areas of society. He said that approximately 12 million women are employed in

the country. He added: With regard to the special circumstances of women, the country's labor law has made certain provisions for them. Furthermore, he expressed the opinion that in order to create a healthy atmosphere in society, one must start from the workplace and then deal with places such as the streets. Ayatollah Yazdi asked the country's ministers, administrators, and officials to pay greater attention to the issue of compliance with Islamic regulations in the workplace.

The provisional Friday prayer leader of Tehran also asked Friday prayer leaders from all over the country to make greater efforts and gain more precise information, so as to be able to analyze issues and events with greater insight, and in accordance with the country's interests.

Commentary Examines International Reaction to Lebanon Raids

NC2807135293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Political commentary by the News Commentaries Group]

[Text] As you have heard in the news, reaction from international organizations and countries continues to the latest events in Lebanon.

In view of the fact that Israel's aggression against Lebanon is continuing for the fourth day in a row and the casualties of these dastardly attacks on residential areas all over Lebanon have exceeded 400 killed or wounded, the Security Council held a consultative session last night but could not reach a consensus. The British Government's representative, who heads the Security Council, announced at a news conference that the Security Council has agreed to extend the presence of the peacekeeping forces in southern Lebanon and that discussion of Israel's latest aggression against Lebanon has been postponed until today's formal session.

The British representative added: The draft of the Security Council's statement regarding Israel's latest aggression has been prepared and the Security Council, while expressing regret, calls on the two sides to refrain from the use of force and to respect each other's independence and territorial integrity.

According to political observers, the different approaches to similar issues and the absolute support of some of the permanent members of the Security Council for Israel has undermined the credibility of this Council more than ever. Two years ago, when the occupation of Kuwait took place, the Security Council convened a session just a few hours later and within the framework of Chapter Eight of the UN Charter, which has guaranteed implementation, it issued Resolution 660. In the present instance, in spite of the fact that 10 years have passed since the violation of Resolution 425 regarding Israel's immediate withdrawal from Lebanon and Israel has stepped up its acts of aggression, the Security Council encourages the aggressor with its silence and has made the Muslim people of the region more distrustful of the United Nations than ever before.

In addition, a tepid and ambiguous approach toward the latest aggression by Israel, which has endangered the peace and security of the region while hundreds of innocent men and women have been pushed into the abyss of death, is not at all in conformity with the responsibilities entrusted to this organization. A call to the two sides to exercise restraint and to refrain from the use of force without any practical action to back it is tantamount to assisting the aggressor. A continuation of this trend will force the oppressed victims to seek recourse other than the United Nations.

Similarly, the extension of the tenure of the peacekeeping forces' stay in southern Lebanon does not resolve the basic problem. The presence of these forces in southern Lebanon took place within the framework of Resolution 425 and it had been decided that these forces were to be stationed between the Zionist and Lebanese forces. In the next phase, they were to expand the area of their positions to the occupied areas of Lebanon from which Israel was to have withdrawn and to take over the duties of maintaining peace in these areas.

Unfortunately, it has been over a decade since these peacekeeping forces were deployed but Israel audaciously continues to resist any idea of withdrawal from the occupied areas of Lebanon. Whenever it feels like it, Israel crosses the lines of the so-called peacekeeping forces right before the eyes of the observers of the international powers and drags the peace and security of the people of Lebanon into blood and dust.

Israeli Strategy Likely To Fail

LD2807223893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Yesterday, for the third day in succession, south Lebanon was the target of savage and brutal attacks of the Zionist regime's army. As a result of all-round attacks launched by Israel against the residential and civilian areas of south Lebanon, apart from heavy loss of life and property, large numbers of people from that region have been made homeless and forced to migrate from there. Reportedly close to 300,000 people have fled from southern regions to Beirut. Some local sources have described the homelessness of the residents of these regions as unprecedented. In this connection, they state: Such a large-scale phenomena has not been observed since 1982.

Meanwhile, political circles in the region believe that the homelessness of the people in south Lebanon and their influx into central and northern Lebanon will create problems for the Lebanese Government. This apparently is a part of the Zionist designs in their ongoing attacks against Lebanon. By intensifying its air, ground, and

naval attacks against south Lebanon, the Zionist officials apparently intend to boost their security in the face of raids of the Islamic Resistance movement in that part of Lebanon. But the nature of such assaults and comments of the Zionist regime's political and military officials point to some bigger objectives.

Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister of the occupying Zionist regime, yesterday declared: Present operations will continue for yet another week until the complete annihilation of 30 villages of south Lebanon. He added: We will hit the villages so ferociously and will drive their people in such a manner that the operations of the Islamic resistance will be halted.

A military report in the region says of the firing of 5,000 shells by the Israelis in the regions of south Lebanon: In this way the Zionist regime, by alluding to the issue of security in the northern part of occupied Palestine, is trying, through intimidating and demoralizing the people of south Lebanon and also by pressuring the Lebanese Government to prepare grounds restricting the operations of the Islamic resistance and subsequently to uproot them.

In the same connection, the Governments of Lebanon and Syria have been targeted by Israel. The reason is that considering the so-called peace talks process and unresolvable issues which exist between the Zionist and the Syrian and Lebanese negotiators, the armed resistance and anti-Zionist operations alone can put the Israeli regime under pressure.

Hence, over recent days and weeks, we have been observing the vast-ranging Israeli and American propaganda in the region against the Islamic resistance aimed at blaming it for blocking the so-called peace talks process. Based on this—and also due to the fact that the current Israeli assault against Lebanon has already been brought to the notice of the White House officials—in the opinion of most political analysts the Zionist regime is this time carrying out its savage attacks against the defenseless people of south Lebanon with greater confidence.

The age old scorched-earth policy has been resumed by the Zionists in south Lebanon in a bid to terminate the brave resistance of the Lebanese Muslim youths who are waging the struggle against the occupation of their homeland by the Zionists. But due to the reason that such measures can only give further legitimacy to the resistance, the Zionists cannot be optimistic about the success of their new strategy.

Commentary Urges UN Mediation in Tajikistan Fighting

LD2907215193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] According to dispatches clashes are still continuing between Tajik militants and Russian troops along Tajikistan's frontier with Afghanistan. Informed news sources say that as a result of these clashes scores of people from both sides have been killed so far.

However, news media in Russia are maintaining a blackout on reports of Russian fatalities. According to these sources opposition is growing among Russian troops on the subject of dispatch to Tajikistan. Furthermore, the families of the Russian soldiers killed in the war are, to the [word indistinct] of the Russian officials, conveying their protest through the press over the killing of their children in the effort to crush militant forces fighting against another country.

In the meantime it is said that public protest against a suppressive policy are continuing within Tajikistan. In the northern city of Khojand all members of the local council, barring its chief, who is the brother of Tajik prime minister, Abdulmalik Abdullodzhanov, have resigned. These resignations which have been tendered in protest against the government policy have been given significance by political observers due to the importance of the city of Khojand in Tajikistan.

At the same time TASS news agency, in a report from Moscow, said that Russian choppers and artillery units are continuing their attacks inside Afghanistan. This very issue has entailed a reaction from the Afghan Government. Political analysts in the region believe that these clashes can only worsen the current situation.

Currently the people of the region pose this important question as to what factor has actually initiated the ongoing hostilities along Tajik borders. In response to this major question one will have to analyze the events which occurred last December in the wake of the 16th session of the Tajik Parliament. At that time the government of Mr. Rakhmanov came to power with the backing of Russia and Uzbekistan by promising the formation of a national unity cabinet. Then contrary to the pledge Dushanbe embarked on a policy of eliminating national and Islamic groups. As a consequence of this policy nearly 500,000 Tajiks were made homeless within Tajikistan while another 100,000 had to flee the country. The homelessness of this huge number of people—which is quite noticeable in comparison to the total population of 5 million for that country—has caused a host of problems for the government. Despite announcement of readiness by the Islamic and national forces to open talks for settlement of the differences, irrespective of all the crimes committed by the communist regime so far, the Tajik Government, on the advice of Moscow and Tashkent has not yet agreed to start negotiations. As a result it is pursuing the policy of confrontation with the Tajik militants.

Undoubtedly the long-term objectives of Russia and Tajikistan in Central Asia are in conflict with the interests of the Tajik people. Therefore Russia prefers to

further pressure Tajik militants along the Afghan frontiers with the help of its military power. However news of the mechanized Russian Army is capable of engaging in a full-scale and long-term guerrilla war at present warded the people inside Russia and Tajikistan as well as in other countries of the region and the world permit the Yeltsin government to pursue such a policy. [sentence as received] Hence it will be advisable that mutual and cordial talks, through the mediation of the UN, for reaching a general settlement be resumed soon before the situation gets further complicated.

Commentary Discusses Bosnian Peace Talks, Peace Plan

LD2807163393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1011 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] High-ranking officials from Bosnia, Croatia, Serbia, and Montenegro, and also commanders of the armed forces of Bosnia, Croatia, and Serbia, began their first round of direct talks yesterday after a three-month interlude, under the mediation and supervision of Europe and the United Nations. These talks are being held under circumstances when the cities of Bosnia—especially Sarajevo—are being subjected to heavy air and land attacks of the Serbs. Thousands of Muslims, mainly women, children, and the elderly, are being driven from their homes and being killed in horrific ways.

The chief aim of the international mediators in the Geneva talks is to concentrate all efforts on the joint Belgrade-Zagreb plan, i.e. placing ethnic groups in a loose confederation or, in other words, the creation of three small and noncentralized Bosnian, Serbian, and Croatian states. The plan makes provision for a confederation made up of three territorially sovereign states in which the central government has only a nominal role. [passage omitted]

The earlier Vance-Owen plan was at first opposed by the Muslims but welcomed by the Serbs and Croats. Meanwhile, the Muslims came under increasing political and military pressure and ultimately had to accept that plan. Not long after, however, the Serbs came up with the pretext that the plan does not place some key territories at their disposal, and they began opposing it. What is interesting is that this scenario is being repeated exactly in the new Belgrade-Zagreb plan, which [Bosnian President] Izetbegovic opposed when it was proposed six weeks ago. A little while afterwards, and under political and military pressures by the Serbs and the West, he attached a condition to the question of his participation in the talks.

Finally, in the past few days and without notice being taken of Izetbegovic's precondition, the members of the presidential council were compelled to take part in the talks. However, Karadzic did say at a news conference that he was not very optimistic about the plan and the prospects for peace. This remark shows that the Serbs have reached the conclusion that there is really nothing to stop them from deploying their military power to occupy the rest of Bosnian territory in the near future. [passage omitted]

It would not be too surprising if Muslims may be forced to accept the proposed joint European, Serbian, and Croatian plans during the course of these talks. In any case, in the event that this plan is fulfilled, the Muslim population of 44 percent will be placed in one-tenth of present Bosnia, and in economically disadvantageous regions. This will mean that the Muslim state will be dependent for years on foreign assistance.

Austrian Minister Discusses Bosnia With Velayati

LD2807181093 Tehran IRNA in English 1427 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 28, IRNA—Austrian Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Franz Fischler said here Wednesday [28 July] that the situation in Bosnia is worsening and the Muslims are deprived of the basic necessities.

Fischler told Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati that roads to Bosnia have been blocked making impossible delivery of humanitarian aid to the Bosnian people via Austria. "An immediate solution should be found for the Bosnian crisis," he stressed.

Velayati touched on Austrian government's efforts to bring a solution to the Bosnian crisis. He said that the tragic events in Bosnia-Herzegovina have had negative reflection in the Islamic world and added that the decision adopted by the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) speaks of the unanimity of the Islamic countries over the issue and their grave concern over the plight of the Bosnian Muslims.

Velayati said that the European countries should not allow the negative impact of the Bosnian crisis on the Islamic world be deepened.

Fischler said the long-standing good relations between Tehran and Vienna should be further promoted and that his visit aimed at expansion of bilateral agricultural cooperation.

Meets Habibi, Kalantari

LD2807190593 Tehran IRNA in English 1810 GMT 28 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 28, IRNA—The visiting Austrian Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Franz Fischler in a meeting with Iran's Vice-President Hasan Habibi here Wednesday [28 July] expressed his country's willingness to expand cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran in agriculture, livestock and forestry.

He expressed his pleasure with the progress made by the Tehran-Vienna Joint Economic Commission, and said that in the past few years the volume of trade exchanges between the two countries had increased and Iran's export to Austria had risen compared with the previous years.

Referring to the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, he said that Austria kept a neutral stand but at the same time actively insisted on an end to the unjust war in that republic.

Habibi said in response that in the present hectic situation in the world the independent countries should cooperate with each other to stop the unwarranted genocide in Bosnia. He said the independent countries should do anything possible in order that moral principles and established human values and the inherent dignity of man is upheld nationally and internationally.

On bilateral relations, Habibi hoped that economic, political and cultural relations between Iran and Austria would further broaden.

Meanwhile, Fischler held separate talks with Minister of Agriculture 'Isa Kalantari here today on expansion of agricultural cooperation. The two sides agreed on the benefits of better cooperation between the two countries in soil and water technology, research, agriculture education, bio-technology in agriculture, seed improvement, agricultural machinery, chemical and agricultural industries as well as dam building.

Fischler arrived in Tehran on Monday.

Envoy Reports Iraqi Violations, Border Clashes to UN

LD3007121993 Tehran IRNA in English 1200 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] United Nations, New York, July 30, IRNA—Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations Kamal Kharrazi reported 18 cases of Iraqi cease-fire violations to the U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali.

In a letter to the U.N. chief Thursday [29 July], Kharrazi noted that Iraqi violations had taken place in a period from April 23 to June 7, 1993. In addition to Iraqi violations, the letter noted, during the said period, a number of Iraqi-based anti-revolutionary elements crossed the international border and clashed with Iranian forces. However, it said, those elements fled back to Iraq when faced with Iranian reaction.

The letter also referred to two cases of mine plantation by anti- revolutionary elements who had penetrated into Iran. "On 13 May 1993, an Iranian vehicle carrying six passengers hit a mine planted by anti-revolutionaries who penetrated into the Islamic Republic of Iran... As a result, the vehicle was destroyed and its passengers were injured." Another mine was discovered and defused in the vicinity of a village in west of Iran, the letter added.

Oil Minister Discusses Market, OPEC Situation

LD2907200793 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1515 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Interview with Iranian Petroleum Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i by unidentified announcer; from the "Political Roundtable" program—live]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Hello and good evening dear viewers. We are here with another program from the political department of the second channel.

During the past few days the price of oil has fallen less sharply in world markets, the it is still declining. The current oil crisis has continued for various reasons and we are going to discuss this problem and the reasons for the fall in oil prices with the esteemed minister, His Excellency Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i, who is the guest of our program. I thank his excellency for attending the program. [passage omitted]

Mr. Aqazadeh-Kho'i initially we have witnessed a fall in oil prices during the past few days. What are the reasons for that fall?

[Aqazadeh-Kho'i] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. One of the most important factors that contributed to the fall in oil prices in recent weeks is Iraq's discussions with the UN Security Council. Oil prices fell by around $1.50 as soon as some positive signs were seen of the outcome of discussions between Iraq and the Security Council.

Another reason for the weakening of oil prices since the last OPEC session was the Kuwaiti refusal to sign the OPEC agreement. During the last session Kuwait asked for a quota equivalent to that of the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. The organization did not accept Kuwait's argument concerning a quota equivalent to that of the UAE's because there was not enough demand for it at that time. OPEC only agreed to increase Kuwait's quota by 150,000 barrels, but Kuwait refused to sign the agreement. After refusing to sign the agreement, the esteemed Kuwaiti oil minister granted a number of interviews that themselves did not help the market situation and even contributed to the fall in oil prices.

[Announcer] You mean the Kuwaiti oil minister?

[Aqazadeh-Kho'i] Yes the Kuwaiti oil minister. Those two issues were added to overproduction by a number of OPEC members and therefore we have not seen strong and stable prices in the oil market since the last session. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] I think there are other factors that have psychological effects on the market such as the season, or other issues such as the addition of output by some countries such as North Sea oil by Britain.

[Aqazadeh-Kho'i] Obviously season is a factor, but the OPEC ceiling has been set according to the season. If the

same thing had happened in winter it would not have had so much effect and caused such a decrease in prices. That is, the market situation was also not favorable, and a lot of products were floating in the market and there were no customers to buy them. All those factors joined together to create the current serious oil crises in recent weeks.

[Announcer] What is the Iranian stance on the current situation in OPEC and in general?

[Aqazadeh-Kho'i] If we have an accurate understanding of the factors of the crisis, we should then have suitable solutions for them. With regard to Iraq and in the previous OPEC meetings, we have always emphasized that we should have a definite formula and a scenario for the stage when Iraq reenters OPEC. It was also an OPEC resolution that as soon as Iraq received the necessary permit to enter the market there should be an extraordinary meeting. Therefore, whenever Iraq receives the necessary permit, the organization should hold an extraordinary meeting in order to review Iraqi conditions urgently and find a suitable solution for Iraq's return and place within the OPEC ceiling.

With regard to Kuwait, which is another factor, we think, and I have said it before: Kuwait did not put forward its problem at a suitable time. In other words: At the previous meeting we did not increase the OPEC ceiling, we reiterated the previous ceiling. It was not a suitable time for any country to ask for a new request or new share. At the time we extensively discussed this issue with Kuwait. In principle we were not against Kuwait, nor were we standing against it. We were arguing with reason and saying that if you have a difficulty with your share, it would be better to discuss the case at a suitable time, a time when there is a demand in the market and when OPEC could show flexibility with regard to your demands and arguments.

Unfortunately the Kuwaiti minister did not accept this argument and only later realized that it was not a suitable time to present his idea. For this reason we have heard in the past few days that if there is an extraordinary meeting they will show flexibility. The third factor is overproduction. Here we have to look reasonably at the arguments put forward by those countries overproducing, but at the same time we should not accept their stubborn increase in their production, without them solving the issue through the organization. The organization should not have an aggressive approach to those who have domestic difficulties and it should not ignore them.

To solve the issue therefore we have to take these three elements into account, and toward this end OPEC members attend the organization's extraordinary meeting should have the necessary flexibility. No country should have a predetermined stance that will not allow flexibility and that would put them under constraint if the organization is unable to find various solutions. Our organization should therefore...[pauses] OPEC ministers should hold the necessary discussions with their governments in order to explain to them the conditions of the market, and in the OPEC meeting they should listen to the arguments and should try to solve the problems with flexibility.

Of course, previously we have had various resolutions and communiques that when the issue and the return of Iraq is put forward, countries that overproduce should come to the meeting with greater flexibility and should not be in a fixed and immovable position. Presently the Iraqi issue, taking into account that it has been delayed, has now reached the stage that we are about to have the next official meeting—early in the month of Mehr [late September]. I believe in order to strengthen prices the ministers should—with flexibility and a positive approach to the market—start discussions. If there are those who are overproducing they should reduce it. Countries, especially the main producers, who think the market is not strong, should replace negative with positive views and if necessary should reduce their output voluntarily until this condition is passed.

[Announcer] The March 1993 budget has envisaged an export rate for crude oil exports. At the moment a price reduction is discernible. What will be the effects of this reduction in the budget?

[Aqazadeh-Kho'i] First let me tell you the latest market prices available today. After the ending of the Iraqi issue—its entering the market—the prices were boosted somewhat. At the moment North Sea oil prices have increased to $17.4 or $17.5 per barrel. The Persian Gulf oil—Oman: Oil price has increased up to 15.5 dollars; Dubai increased up to 14.5 dollars. That much for prices under market conditions.

Side by side with that is our country's budget. This year's budget has been drafted realistically to a certain extent and viewed as such. In the first three months the amounts of hard currency that we have delivered to the Central Bank... [pauses] Fortunately the prices we have received have been above 16 dollars per barrel in Farvardin, Ordibehesht, and Khordad [months starting on 22 March] and also our earned income has been 90 percent over the budget [as heard]. It is natural that when 90 percent of the income is realized, the 10 percent shortfall can be compensated for in better seasons such as winter and autumn.

Therefore, we are hopeful that there should be no problems in the country from the viewpoint of the budget. With a fluctuation of plus or minus 5 percent—or slightly more—the realization of this, God willing, will be certain. Of course in the past, on the basis of the experiences that we have had in past years, when OPEC faces a crisis and the states are confronted by difficulties, the ministers become active and enter negotiations with flexibility and find a solution. Usually in all the past crises that we have had we have reached a solution. A

crisis time of, say, one or two months cannot be projected over the whole year. Often when we reach a good decision it compensates for those one or two months.

Of course, in my opinion, in coming seasons, that is in the coming meeting and in summer and winter, taking into consideration the market demand and deferring the Iraqi issue to the future—that is to the panorama that will unfold in the autumn and winter seasons—the likelihood of resolving the Iraqi issue is boosted since there is more demand in the market. [sentence as heard] Within the framework of that demand and the flexibility that we will call on the states to show, we shall hopefully reach a settlement in the overall issues raised in the meeting.

[Announcer] God willing. Mr. Aqazadeh, how do you see OPEC's current and future prospects?

[Aqazadeh-Kho'i] As you are aware, OPEC is the most important organization among Third World countries, and plays a serious role in the world economy, and its decisions can affect world economy in various ways. OPEC has two faces, one internal and one external. Its external face is what you see in the form of discussions reported in news bulletins and different stances adopted by the member countries. The internal face is the one in which various international factors and the role of the superpowers and organizations... [pauses] which can be influenced through the countries who they are friendly with. It is a complicated task to recognize such political complexities and realize what ploys are used; and what should be done to foil such ploys. This is an extremely significant point.

As you know, some 65 million barrels of oil are produced worldwide, and more than 80 percent of all oil trading is done through OPEC. Therefore, this organization continues to play a significant role in the world, and will continue to enjoy such significance, particularly in our region where 70 percent of the world resources are buried. This region will continue to enjoy such extraordinary political and strategic importance for hundreds of years.

Currently major oil producers play a major role within the OPEC, and the discussions and stances of those countries toward each other and their cooperation within the OPEC are extremely important.

For example, Saudi Arabia is the main producer in the organization and Iran is second. Therefore, the views of these countries are more important than others, both inside the organization and on the international level. This corresponds with the policy of the Islamic Republic. We want to strengthen the organization and give it greater strength, to allow it to implement its regulations and discipline, properly, and in the best possible manner, to make it responsible in carrying out the laws and regulations of the organization, to increase internal OPEC cooperation among members. We shall try to cooperate with all OPEC members, especially those in our region, and should try to find suitable solutions through bilateral cooperation.

We have decided on—as our main policy—to strengthen the organization everyday, instead of carrying out policies that would weaken and destroy it, and we have good cooperation. Of course when there is crisis countries take certain positions toward each other. Sometimes these positions are not well considered and cause weakness in the organization. I advise all the countries to keep away from negative and destructive stances, and try—of course countries might have different views—to uphold the interest of the organization and its countries, in the negotiations, and within this context uphold the interest of these countries and ourselves.

Oil has such a fundamental role in the economy of our country and is the source of more than 90 percent of the foreign exchange income. Therefore, there is a need to be very careful in forming oil policy.

[Announcer] God willing. We wish you success.

Khamene'i Appoints Representative to Ardabil Province

LD2907124693 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1130 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Excerpt] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Revolution, has issued an edict appointing Hojjat ol-Eslam Haj Shaykh Buyuk Moravvej, the Friday imam of Ardabil, as his representative and deputy in the newly created province of Ardabil. [passage omitted]

* Prices of Food Products in Tehran Detailed

93LA0124F Tehran SALAM in Persian 6 Jul 93 p 10

[Text] Economic Service. The Economic Statistics Office of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran reports that on the Tehran retail market the prices for unpasteurized milk, Iranian cheese, and pasteurized butter decreased somewhat and the price of dried milk increased significantly. A carton of eggs was selling for 2,300 to 2,700 rials [Rls], a small decrease compared to the previous week. The prices for various kinds of rice and most grain products decreased slightly. Grocers situated in the public squares under consideration in the municipality sold various grain products from Rls180 to Rls475 per kilogram less than the prices in the stores in the city.

During the week of the study the public squares under consideration in the municipality sold fruits and fresh vegetables at the prices set by the Municipal Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Organization. Seasonal fruits, with the exception of peaches, were of appropriate quality, but various vegetables, with the exception of leafy vegetables, were generally undesirable. Fruit sellers in the city sold desirable items and fresh fruits and vegetables, and the prices for apricots, cherries, green tomatoes, melons,

watermelons, cucumbers, eggplants, green squash, green beans, and leafy vegetables fell while prices for grapes increased.

During this week there were minor fluctuations in the prices of various kinds of red meat and chicken.

There was no important change in the free price of sugar cubes and sugar, but the free price of tea and vegetable shortening increased.

				Average Price in the Week			Percent Change in Price This Week Compared to Last Week
Name and Specifications of Item	Unit	Government Price	This Week	Last Week	Last Month	Last Week	Last Month
1. Dairy Products						1.9	9.5
Unpasteurized yogurt	kg		627	630	529	-0.5	16.3
No. 1 Iranian cheese	kg		6,160	4,220	3,993	-1.4	4.2
Domestically pasteurized and imported butter	kg		4,807	4,893	4,654	-1.8	3.3
Nan powdered milk	per can	240	4,230	3,800	3,700	11.3	14.3
2. Eggs						-2.0	-2.2
Eggs (per carton)	about 2 kg		2,514	2,564	2,459	-2.0	2.3
3. Rice						-1.2	-0.4
Imported rice (Thai)	kg	100	746	752	761	-0.8	-2.0
Imported rice (not Thai)	kg	100	1,028	1,043	1,050	-0.5	-1.1
Sadry No. 1 Domestic Rice	kg		1,956	2,000	1,917	-2.2	2.0
4. Grains		Municipal Squares Price				-0.5	-0.2
Chick peas	kg	450	660	646	676	2.2	-2.4
Split peas	kg	500	678	667	710	2.6	-4.5
Lentils	kg	850	1,065	1,079	1,012	-1.3	5.2
Pinto beans	kg	730	1,021	1,025	1,058	-0.4	-3.5
Black-eyed peas	kg						
Navy beans	kg	600-650	1,010	1,017	953	-0.7	6.0
Red beans	kg	550	1,025	1,070	1,047	-4.2	-2.1
5. Fresh Fruit						-3.9	-11.9
Red Lebanese apples	kg	250	867	840	952	3.2	-8.9
Yellow Lebanese apples	kg	300	806	776	752	3.9	7.2
No. 1 Oranges	kg		1,300	1,423	1,526	-2.3	-9.4
No. 2 Oranges	kg	400	762	734	815	3.8	-6.5
Apricots	kg	400	1,225	1,493	—	-18.0	—

				Average Price in the Week			Percent Change in Price This Week Compared to Last Week
Name and Specifications of Item	Unit	Government Price	This Week	Last Week	Last Month	Last Week	Last Month
Cherries	kg	800	1,710	2,096	—	-18.4	—
Peaches	kg	450	1,056	1,052	—	0.4	—
Green tomatoes	kg	250	660	752	1,242	-12.2	-50.8
Pomegranates	kg						
Grapes	kg	400	710	606	738	17.2	-3.8
Musk melon	kg						
Ribbed melons	kg	250	522	591	—	-11.7	—
Watermelon	kg	140-160	234	258	264	-9.3	-11.4
6. Fresh Vegetables						-11.6	-12.2
Thin cucumbers	kg	200	483	632	875	-23.7	-44.9
Tomatoes	kg	200	299	297	261	0.7	14.6
Eggplant	kg	160	474	605	915	-21.7	-48.2
Green squash	kg	140	361	369	313	-9.5	15.3
Potatoes	kg	120	348	446	413	0.6	-15.2
Onions	kg	270	415	418	444	-0.7	-6.5
Green beans	kg	200	482	662	693	-27.2	-30.4
Leafy vegetables	kg	120	302	339	295	-10.9	2.4
7. Red Meat						0.2	-0.9
Lamb and goat*	kg	770	5,771	5,800	5,784	-0.5	-0.2
Beef and veal**	kg	770	5,171	5,128	5,263	1.0	-1.6
8. Chicken						0.5	-0.3
Chicken	kg		1,952	1,943	1,957	0.5	-0.3
9. Sugar, sugar cubes						-0.1	-4.7
Sugar cubes	kg	27.5	883	876	931	0.8	-5.2
Sugar	kg	27.5	759	767	792	1.0	-4.3
10. Tea						4.5	12.5
Mixed tea (500-gram)	package	750	900	861	800	4.5	12.5
11. Vegetable shortening						14.2	24.3
Vegetable Shortening (5-kg)	can	294	11,388	9,881	8,408	14.2	34.3

*Average price of one kg of fresh lamb, including fat and bone

**Average price of one kg of fresh beef and veal, without fat and bone

* Need To Increase Capabilities in All Areas Stressed

93LA0120K Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 7 Jul 93 p 8

[Text] On Sunday 6 Tir [27 Jun], following about a month of propaganda against Iraq, the Government of

America fired 23 rockets at Baghdad for the attempt to assassinate George Bush during a trip to Kuwait after its liberation by American forces.

This American action is considered a basic step forward toward the establishment of the so-called new world order. Before that, America sought mostly to act against other countries in the framework of UN Security Council resolutions or at least based on the opinions of international and domestic courts or various political bodies.

The previous era of attacking Iraq, sending troops into Kuwait, creating security zones in the north and south of Iraq, and sending troops into Somalia were all done within legal frameworks, of course, with characteristics of which we are aware.

The new round of missile attacks on Baghdad, however, was done solely on the basis of decisions by the American Government, and this is considered to be that same "basic step forward" by the White House. The Americans did not even consider themselves obligated to wait until the trial of the accused was over in Kuwait so that the charges against them would at least be confirmed in a local court.

The subsequent display by America was the completion of the program that was designed to establish the new world order. In a five-minute television speech, in complete violation of international law and convention, Bill Clinton repeated the charges against the Government of Iraq and limited himself to saying "do not attack us."

In reality, the message of the televised speech by the American president of the republic was not the contents of the Clinton speech. Instead, in this way America notified other countries that it does not need to spend more than five minutes explaining clear and obvious violations of the rights of other countries, and moreover that it need not explain with reason, but only with repetitive and unproven statements.

The reaction of the Western world and international organizations to this American measure is also noteworthy: Alain Juppe, the foreign minister of France, described this American action as "understandable." Helmut Kohl, chancellor of Germany, called the attack on Baghdad "a justifiable reaction" to terrorist activity. The Italian Government said the missile attack on Baghdad was "understandable and a reaction to terrorist threats." Moscow also said the rocket attack on Iraq was "a justifiable act of self-defense." Finally the secretary-general of the United Nations, keeping silence against this measure, said only that "the United Nations acts independently of American policy."

The agreement of the Western nations with America bespeaks the complete agreement of these countries with the proposed new world order, however many differences there may be among them at a more detailed level.

Of course, in this regard it must be mentioned that the Government of Iraq and Saddam Husayn himself are absolutely indefensible for their domestic and international fascist behavior, including starting the war with Iran, violating international war conventions with the support of Western nations, the occupation of Kuwait, the suppression of the Shiites in the south, and the Kurds in the north, and so forth.

It is necessary that the people of Iraq make the necessary decision on the fate of their country. Likewise, at the international level the necessary penalties, however problematic and defective, must be approved and implemented by the appropriate authorities based on official laws and regulations.

However, the aggregate of recent events is such that it carries clear and plain messages for other countries. These messages include the unprecedented weakening of the international treaties and organizations remaining from the measures taken after the end of World War II and the fundamental changes in them based on current conditions.

Thus the security foundations that took shape in the years after the end of World War II are collapsing and based on the new description of security being given under current circumstances by the powerful nations, new measures will take shape. For example, the slaughter of thousands of Muslims as well as open and official threats of slaughter against all Muslims if the arms embargo against them is violated are considered neither a crime nor deserving of punishment, but the mere threat by a few people to assassinate the president of the republic of America will lead to a missile attack on a country.

Likewise, under the new arrangements, the international legal organizations will not be as effective in decisions as the mass media, which will serve to validate, and it is extensive and international media propaganda that will be the criteria for action and judgement.

Thus a period of insecurity, especially for countries and nations outside the Western domain and bloc, is before us. Although during this period the role of diplomacy and good bilateral relations with some elements of the Western bloc must not be completely rejected, it must also be noted that too much reliance on these kinds of relations is also a strategic mistake. The West has shown that behind its internal differences, it acts as a whole.

Now that this reality is before us, the nation's policies and programs must be concentrated more than before in economic and industrial areas, and aimed at growing and strengthening domestic forces. Thus the nation's power will be raised to a level where we will have the ability to resist the threats of the designers of the new world order.

In an age of insecurity and constant threat, neglecting to develop domestic abilities will make the nation more vulnerable and will put us in a frightening position. Now, as we are on the threshold of compiling the Second

Five-Year Plan, is the best time to adopt policies aimed at increasing domestic capabilities in all areas.

Mas'ud Reza'i, Political Service

* Report Views Suicide Rate Among Young

93LA0122F London KEYHAN in Persian 6 May 93 p 2

[Text] While at home alone, a 15-year-old youth, an only child, poured flammable material on himself and died as the result of severe burns. He was the only child in the family and it is said that he had a high IQ.

A police agent from the city of Nishabur killed himself by eating a vegetable poison at home. "Family problems" were announced as the reasons for this suicide. He had a spouse and two children.

A prisoner of Afghan extraction in Birjand Prison hanged himself and ended his life. He was named 'Abdol-Rashid Nayeb, and it is said that he was in prison for smuggling narcotics.

A 30-year-old young man threw himself off a bridge into the Kamasiab River in Bistun and drowned in the waves of the river. The first efforts to find his body were unsuccessful. The reason for this suicide remains unknown.

An Afghan named Seyyed Mohammad Hoseyn threw himself off an aerial bridge on Pahlavi Street because of the death of his wife in the hospital, and died on the spot.

A 15-year-old girl named Ma'sumeh, a student in the third year of rahnema'i school in Sari, poured kerosene over herself and ignited it, and while the fire was burning, she ran terrified into the street. They took her to the hospital, where she died.

In Tehran, a 30-year-old man poured kerosene on his mother and set fire to her, and after this killing, he inserted a bare wire into a wall outlet and ended his own life as well. Those close to them said the reason was differences between the mother and the son, who was single.

A 30-year-old woman living in West Tehran burned herself to death by pouring kerosene over herself. The mother of this young woman, who rushed to her aid, was severely burned herself and was taken to the accident and burn hospital.

A man poured gasoline on an automobile, which apparently belonged to the police, set fire to it, then fled the scene before the astonished eyes of the people. Observers said that no one tried to stop the man, who did not have a vehicle.

* Editorial Urges Government Action

93LA0122G London KEYHAN in Persian 6 May 93 p 6

[Text] A reader of a newspaper in Tehran asks, since the statistics on suicide, especially among the nation's youth, whether boys or girls, have increased to an alarming extent, why isn't a meeting or a seminar held for the experts so they can investigate this important matter? In response the newspaper expresses the hope that "officials" will soon deal with this important matter.

It is true that there has never been such a hot market for seminars in Iran since the Islamic revolution. A week never goes by when a congress or a seminar is not held, sometimes at great cost (perhaps this is one of the reasons for holding such meetings), but it rarely happens that a result comes out of one of these meetings.

However, although many pointless meetings with little content are held, little is heard about holding meetings to discuss and seek solutions to the more important problems in our revolution-stricken society.

Every day when you turn through the newspapers published in Iran, you see an average of one suicide per day reported. Informed circles say that this is only part of the great tragedy in Iran's society. The reality is so huge that it is not easy to report all of it, and even if it were, the government "advises" that the newspapers refrain from printing news about it.

One ends his life peacefully by eating sleeping pills, another hangs himself, another throws himself from a high place, and perhaps the harshest suicides are the ones by self-immolation.

We do not need an Iranian Emile Durkheim to dig out the reasons for the suicides, nor do we need to put fresh emphasis on the self-destructive motivation that according to Freud exists in every person.

In any case, the inclination or motivation that every person has to destroy himself is intensified or weakened in specific social circumstances and environments. In Iran also, as anywhere else in the world, some people voluntarily end their lives. What is worth studying, however, is why, after the coming to power of the Islamic government, have the suicide rates, like the rates for murder, theft and other forms of social violence, increased so much?

It is precisely here that the regime's leaders do not want to remove the cotton from their ears to hear the correct answer, because the coming to power of a government of this type and the increase in the figures on social disruption are directly related.

Nepal

Ruling Party, Opposition Resume Talks

BK2907162893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1621 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Text] Kathmandu, July 29 (AFP)—Talks resumed Thursday between the government and seven communist factions after an unsuccessful round the day before

when calls for the prime minister's resignation were refused, communist sources said.

Also Thursday the communist factions decided to postpone a three-day strike scheduled to start August 9 because of severe [word indistinct] flooding which has left more than 2,000 people dead, a statement said.

The statement said the strike would now be called for September 9 and would be preceded by a torchlight procession and a number of other activities, including public meetings and laying seige to government offices to pressure Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala to resign.

The sources said the ruling Nepali Congress party had also not bent to communist demands for the reinstatement of civil servants sacked during a campaign of strikes for non-official government employees in 1991.

The strikes began a month after Koirala was elected prime minister when 176,000 pro-communist civil servants called for better benefits in addition to a 25 percent hike in salaries.

Political observers here said that the Nepali Congress was adamant about not giving in to the demands of the opposition.

The communist team at the talks included the Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML).

The observers said the NCP-UML was concerned its campaign of agitation could start losing public support, but that the party was reluctant to call off the campaign before it could show any real gains.

Some two dozen people died after violence flared up, following a general strike called earlier this month by the NCP-UML to demand a new investigation into the deaths of two communist party leaders in a road accident.

The communists claim the two were murdered, contrary to a government investigation that ruled the deaths an accident.

Recent flooding and landslides in Nepal, claiming some 2,000 lives and displacing hundreds of thousands of people, have helped divert public attention from the communist campaign of agitation.

However, Baburam Bhattarai of the United Peoples Front said the campaign would only be suspended temporarily. "It will be resumed in due time," he said.

"The resumption or calling off of the agitation hinges upon the outcome of the bilateral talks," he added.

Although the talks were inconclusive, members of both sides described the nature of the talks as positive and expressed optimism for arriving at a successful conclusion.

The talks are expected to continue on Friday.

Meanwhile, Nepali Congress members are beginning to show signs of unrest over Koirala's position as prime minister, a highly placed party source said.

The source said that although party support for the embattled prime minister appeared solid, some Nepali Congress members were determined to remove him from office.

In an interview last week with DRISTI, the NCP-UML mouthpiece, senior Nepali Congress official Bharat Shumsher Rana openly spoke in favour of Koirala's resignation and said Home Minister Sher Bahadur Deupa had changed his mind about Koirala retaining his position.

In other developments, sources from the National Democrat Party of former prime ministers Surya Bahadur Thapa and Lokendra Bahadur Chand said they were campaigning to collect one million signatures to support their call for mid-term elections.

Pakistan

Editorial Urges 'Stronger' U.S. Stand on Kashmir

BK2907122993 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 29 Jul 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Kashmir—world conscience on trial"]

[Text] Pakistan continues to draw world attention towards the atrocities being perpetrated by India on the innocent people of Occupied Kashmir and stress the need for the settlement of this long-lingering issue to the satisfaction of the Kashmiri people. In the recent meeting between the United States Ambassador in Pakistan, Mr. John C. Aiwan-e-Sadr (Presidential palace) [name as published], the Kashmir problem was also discussed. The President brought to the notice of the US envoy the sufferings of the Kashmiri people and told him about the worst-ever violations of human rights being committed by the Indian armed forces against the helpless Kashmiri Muslims. Mr. Monjo is understood to have asured the President that his country would play every possible role in the resolution of the regional disputes and that he would convey to his government the concern of Pakistan.

The latest Asia Watch Report on "The Human Rights Crisis in Kashmir" has revealed that the Indian security forces have killed hundreds of civilians during interrogation in police lock-up. The report says that since the Indian troops embarked on their "catch-and-kill" campaign in late 1992 and early 1993, the brutalities against "civilians" have increased and "by mid-1993 human rights groups and journalists in Kashmir reported several hundred executions of detainees since Operation Tiger began." Even the Indian Press, despite its reservations, has now started admitting the excesses being committed by the Indian forces in Occupied Kashmir. The DAILY TELEGRAPH of Calcutta, in its issue of May 17, 1993,

carried the accounts of eye-witnesses who said Indian troops laid siege to the main bazar and some other localities of Kiramhore to conduct search operationss. The menfolk were herded out of their homes and held for several hours. The soldiers then ransacked some shops and even stole cash and other valuables. Thereafter, they entered a school and raped four girl students. Similar reports are pouring in form other independent sources as well. Whereas the killing of 'Mojahedin' in armed encounters is understandable, the massacre of unarmed civilians on flimsy pretexts only goes to show that India is carrying out a genocide in held Kashmir. As a noted columnist has put it, "The deliberate recruitment of paramilitary forces from the scum of Hindu society for deployment against Kashmiri Muslims, with a free hand and no accountability, confirms the belief that the underlying purpose of the Indian operation in Kashmir is not to restore law and order but to end the Kashmir problem by ending the Kashmiris." The situation is getting more and more serious by the day but India appars in no mood to settle the problem in a peaceful manner despite Pakistan's repeated proposals to this effect. The offer made by a spokesman of the Clinton administration to host a Camp David-type summit on Kashmir involving India, Pakistan, Kashmir groups and the US, has also been rejected by the Indian Prime Minister. It is now for the United States, the sole superpower today, to take a stronger stand and force India to settle the Kashmir issue in the light of the UN Security Council resolutions which give the Kashmiris their right to self-determination. In the meantime,the International court of Justice at the Hague, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, should take cognizance of what is happening in Occupied Kashmiri and issue an order calling upon India "to immediately take all measures within its power to prevent the commission of the crime of genocide," just as it has done in the case of Bosnia-Herzegovina. In fact, the situation in Kashmir has put the world conscience on trial.

Afghan Foreign Minister Arrives in Peshawar on 5-Day Visit

BK2907112293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Text] The Afghan foreign minister, Mr. Hidayat Amin [Arsala], arrived in Peshawar today on a five-day visit to Pakistan. He is due to exchange views with his Pakistani counterpart on matters of bilateral interests as well as regional and international issues.

Prime Minister on PRC Missiles, U.S. Ties, Kashmir

BK3007091993 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 30 Jul 93

[Text] The caretaker prime minister, Mr. Moin Qureshi, has said Pakistan would support any settlement of its dispute with India over Kashmir that takes into account the will of the Kashmiri people. He told a news conference at the end of his private visit to Washington that Pakistan would like to solve the Kashmir issue according to the UN resolution.

Referring to the nuclear question, he said Pakistan was anxious to resolve it. However, it cannot take (?bold) steps unless there is a reciprocal reduction and action on the part of the neighboring country. He said Pakistan's objective was to maintain a deterrent. It is not Pakistan's intention to move to any next stage or creating nuclear weapons.

On U.S.-Pakistan relations, the caretaker prime minister said there is a mutual desire to make these relations closer than had been in the past.

Replying to a question about the supply of Chinese missiles to Pakistan, he said Pakistan had not received any equipment or material from China that violated the Missile Technology Control Regime.

Local Councils in Balochistan Suspended

BK2907144693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 29 Jul 93

[Text] In Balochistan all local councils have been suspended, and deputy commissioners, political agents, assistant commissioners, and development officers have been authorized to run day-to-day affairs of these councils. This was stated in a notification issued in Quetta today. Elections against vacant council seats have also been suspended till further orders.